

# CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

# HowNiKan

People of the Fire

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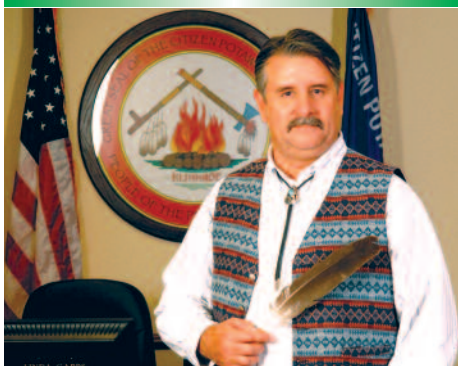
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## New legislature meets in Shawnee

# CPN government creates history

The feeling of history being made was pervasive as newly elected Citizen Potawatomi Nation legislators gathered in Shawnee from, literally, the four corners of the United States. From April 24 through April 26, 2008, the 11 new lawmakers joined CPN Business Committee holdovers Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale, Dist. #12 Rep. Paul Schmidlkofer, and Dist. #13 Rep. Bobbie Bowden for orientation sessions, tours of the CPN enterprises and programs, and the new legislature's first-ever session.

Rep. Schmidlkofer called the tours an eye-opener concerning the Nation's accomplishments, even for the veteran CPN officials. "Until you actually drive around and look, you sometimes forget how far we have come," Schmidlkofer said. "We also spent a significant amount of time on how the government works - the nuts and bolts, so to speak. For those of us who have had the privilege of serving the Nation, some of it might have seemed mundane. But, I must admit it served as a nice reminder." As is evident in the leg-



*A Pause to Pose: Members of the CPN Legislature are, back row from left, Paul Schmidlkofer, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale, David Barrett, Chairman John Barrett, Ron Goyer, Paul Wesselhoft, Roy Slavin, Thom Finks, Bob Whistler, and, front row from left, Vice Chairman Linda Capps, Eva Marie Carney, Theresa Adame, Gene Lambert, Lisa Kraft, Bobbie Bowden, and Jacqueline Taylor.*

islator's columns, found on pages 18-24 of this edition of the *HowNiKan*, the legislators were cognizant of their roles in the historic events and eager to tackle the prospect of using the new form of CPN governance to enhance the future for all tribal members.

Dist. #2 Rep. Eva Marie Carney commented on the reception the legislators were shown during their visit, Rep. Carney

said, "The warmth I was shown and the pride everyone displayed in the Tribe's vision and accomplishments were remarkable."

One of the highlights for the legislators was a Friday afternoon reception at which they met the Nation's tribal member-employees. Robert Whistler, Dist. #3 representative, said, "I had the opportunity to meet numerous tribal employees and staff, a great many of whom are members of your and my families. Talk about being qualified! The breadth of education, experience, and knowledge is fantastic. We are blessed to have so many individuals who love their jobs and are here to serve each of us."

Throughout the weekend's activities, the representatives had recurring discussions about ways to use the new legislature to reach out to tribal members who have not been active in CPN activities or in accessing the Nation's services.

*See HISTORIC SESSION on page 24*



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# 2008 Family Reunion Festival

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008

- 6:00 a.m.** Wellness Center Open House (until 6:00 p.m.)
- 8:00 a.m.** Registration Begins at Pow Wow Grounds (until 9:00 p.m.)  
Shawl Strip-Machine Class - E&T Program Conference Room (Until 5 p.m.)
- 8:30 a.m.** Children's Fingerprinting - North Reunion Hall (until 5:30 p.m.)
- 9:00 a.m.** Tribal Heritage Family/Veterans Interviews (until 5:30 p.m.) - Cultural Heritage Center - All CPN Tribal Members and all Veterans welcome to interview throughout the day
- Photo & Document Scanning - Cultural Heritage Center
- Founding Family Film Festival - Cultural Heritage Center/Voices of Heritage Theatre
- Bingo and Youth Arts & Crafts (until 11:30 a.m.) - Tribal HQ
- Kiddie Land & Petting Zoo - Pow Wow Grounds
- Swimming Pool at Pow Wow Grounds open until 9:00 p.m.
- 10:00 a.m.** Softball Tournament-Sign-Up (14 & older) - Softball Fields
- Hot Dogs, Bratwursts, Smoked Bologna Served - West side of pow wow grounds (Until 10 p.m.)
- Potawatomi Ceremonial Life - Cultural Heritage Center/Voices of Heritage Theatre
- Swimming Pool at Tribal Headquarters Open until 6:00 p.m.
- 11:00 a.m.** Registration for Teenage Pool Tournament until 12:30 p.m. - South of FDF
- 12:00 p.m.** Vendors: Arts & Crafts & Food - Pow Wow Grounds
- Community Development Corporation, CPN Housing Authority, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, & First National Bank Booth Open - South Reunion Hall - open until 7 p.m.
- 12:30 p.m.** Tour of FireLake Grand Casino - shuttles load at softball fields
- 1:00 p.m.** Potawatomi Language Class - North Reunion Hall
- Teenage Pool Tournament ages 15 & up - South of FDF
- Youth Arts & Crafts (until 4:30 p.m.) - Tribal Headquarters
- Children's Activities (14 & under)- Tribal HQ - Chess and Checkers
- 2:00 p.m.** Tour of FireLake Grand Casino - shuttles load at softball fields
- 5:00 p.m.** Chess Tournament - Pow Wow Grounds
- Health Aid Foundation Information Booth - South Reunion Hall (closes at 8 p.m.)
- 5:30 p.m.** Dinner - Pow Wow Grounds - served until 7:30 p.m.

- 6:00 p.m.** Cultural Heritage Center closes for the night
- Domino Tournament - Pow Wow Grounds
- Horseshoes Tournament - Between FDF parking lot and the creek
- Swimming Pool @ Tribal Headquarters Closes for the day
- Traditional Hand Games - Round House/Pow Wow Grounds
- Checkers Tournament - Pow Wow Grounds
- Pool at Pow Wow Grounds closes for the day
- Dance Under the Stars and Dance Contest/Live DJ - South of FDF
- Registration for Night Golf Begins - FireLake Golf Course
- Country & Western Dance - South Reunion Hall
- Night Golf/Scramble - FireLake Golf Course
- Swimming Pool at Pow Wow Grounds Closes for the Day

### SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008

- 7:00 a.m.** Voting opens (until 2:00 p.m.) - Tribal Court
- Tribal Rolls Opens for Photo IDs & Genealogy - Cultural Heritage Center
- FireLake Wellness Center Open House (Until 3:00 p.m.)
- Breakfast - Pow Wow Grounds (Served Until 9:00 a.m.)
- Registration for Golf Tournament Begins - FireLake Golf Course
- Registration Begins at Pow Wow Grounds (until 8:00 p.m.)
- Sacred Heart Tour (transportation provided) - Cultural Heritage Center Parking lot
- Community Development Corporation, CPN Housing Authority, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, & First National Bank Booth Open - South Reunion Hall (open until 3 p.m.)
- Tribal Veterans Meeting - Cultural Heritage Center
- Tribal Heritage Family & Veteran Interviews - Cultural Heritage Center
- Founding Family Film Festival - Cultural Heritage Center/Voices of Heritage Theatre
- Fry Bread Making Demonstration - Pow Wow Grounds
- Golf Tournament - FireLake Golf Course - 4-person teams
- Vendors: Arts & Crafts & Food - Pow Wow Grounds
- Health Fair until 3:00 p.m. - Health Services
- Fry Bread Competition (16 and older) - Pow Wow Grounds
- Children's Fingerprinting - North Reunion Hall (until 5:30 p.m.)
- 9:00 a.m.** Tribal Heritage Family & Veterans Interviews - Cultural Heritage Center
- 2008 Honored Families - Darling, Slavin, Smith (until 10:45 a.m.)
- 2009 Honored Families - Acton, Bergeron, Curley, and all Veterans (until 10:45 a.m.)
- Photo & Document Scanning & Family Research - Cultural Heritage Center (until 10:30 a.m.)
- Hand-Sewn Appliqué Class - Employment & Training Conference Room
- Health Aid Foundation Information Booth - South Reunion Hall - closes at 2 p.m.
- Caring for Your Feet - Wellness Center (until 2:00)
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (15 and older) - Pow Wow Grounds
- Softball Tournament - Fields South of FireLake Discount Foods
- Swimming Pool at Pow Wow Grounds open until 5:00 p.m.
- Youth 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (14 & under) - Tribal HQ
- Youth Arts & Crafts (until 11:30 a.m.) - Tribal Headquarters
- Kiddie Land - Pow Wow Grounds
- Petting Zoo and Rides - Pow Wow Grounds
- 10:00 a.m.** Trail of Death Movie - Potawatomi Church Building
- Hot Dogs/Bratwursts/Smoked Bologna Served - West Side of Pow Wow Grounds ('til 10 p.m.)
- Youth Art Competition (Ages 6-15) - FireLake Foods Parking Lot
- Potawatomi Ceremonial Life- Cultural Heritage Center/Voices of Heritage Theatre

## HOWNIKAN

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	Swimming Pool Open until 5:00 p.m. - Tribal Headquarters Youth Coloring Contest (14 & under) - Tribal Headquarters Archery Tournament - West of Pow Wow Grounds	8:00 p.m.	Grand Entry/Dance - Pow Wow Grounds
11:00 a.m.	Tribal Heritage Family & Veterans Interviews - Cultural Heritage Center 2008 Honored Families - Hardin, Higbee, Lewis (until 12:45 p.m.) 2009 Honored Families - Delonais, Greemore, Levier, and all Veterans (until 12:45 p.m.) Photo & Document Scanning & Family Research - Cultural Heritage Center Youth Softball Throwing Contest (14 & under) - Tribal Headquarters	7:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.	<b>SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2008</b> Traditional Ceremonies - Prayer Circle/Sharp House Breakfast - Pow Wow Grounds (Served until 9:00 a.m.) Sacred Heart Tour (transportation provided) - Heritage Center parking lot Community Development Corporation, CPN Housing Authority, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, & First National Bank Booth Open - South Reunion Hall - (Open until Noon) Tribal Heritage Family & Veterans Interviews (until 12:30 p.m.) - Cultural Heritage Center Photo & Document Scanning (until 12:30 p.m.) - Cultural Heritage Center Founding Family Film Festival - Cultural Heritage Center/Voices of Heritage Theatre Children's Fingerprinting - North Reunion Hall (until 2:00 p.m.) Youth Arts & Crafts (until 11:30 a.m.) - Tribal Headquarters Kiddie Land - Pow Wow Grounds Swimming Pool at Pow Wow Grounds open until 2:00 p.m. Hot dogs/Bratwursts/Smoked Bologna Served - West Side of Pow Wow Grounds (until 2 p.m.) Church Services - Church Just North of Health Clinic Lunch - Pow Wow Grounds (Served until 1:00 p.m.) Cultural Heritage Center Closes for the Weekend Mini-Putt Tournament - FireLake Mini-Putt/Pow Wow Grounds Volleyball Tournament - Grandstand Area ***SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***
11:30 a.m.	Lunch - Pow Wow Grounds (Served until 1:00 p.m.)		
1:00 p.m.	Tribal Heritage Family & Veteran Interviews - Cultural Heritage Center 2008 Honored Families - Bruno, Nadeau (until 2:45 p.m.) 2009 Honored Families - Negahnquet, Pambogo and all Veterans (until 2:45 p.m.) Photo & Document Scanning & Family Research - Cultural Heritage Center Potawatomi Language Class - North Reunion Hall Trail of Death Movie - Potawatomi Church Building Pow Wow Dance Lessons - Between North & South Reunion Halls Youth Arts & Crafts (until 4:00 p.m.) - Tribal Headquarters	9:00 a.m.	
3:00 p.m.	General Council - Cultural Heritage Center Adult Art Competition - CHC (During General Council)	10:00 a.m.	
5:00 p.m.	Tribal Heritage Family & Veterans Interviews - Cultural Heritage Center Photo & Document Scanning - Cultural Heritage Center Founding Family Film Festival - Cultural Heritage Center/Voices of Heritage Theatre Swimming Pools at Tribal Headquarters and Pow Wow Grounds close for the day	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	
5:30 p.m.	Gourd Dancing - Round House Dinner - Pow Wow Grounds (Served until 7:30 p.m.)	1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	
6:00 p.m.	Cultural Heritage Center closes for the day		

## CPCDC kicks off Youth IDA Program

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation has kicked off its Youth Individual Development Account (IDA) program with an orientation session for prospective participants. Felicia Freeman, a CPN member and the IDA Program co-ordinator, told those present, “An Individual Development Account is a matched savings account designed to help students save for their post secondary education.”

“The savings match is a promise to supplement each IDA participant’s savings deposits at a specific rate,” Freeman explained “In other words, a two-to-one savings match means that, for every dollar an IDA Program participant saves, he or she will have another two dollars added to his or her total account balance by the CDC.”

Prospective participants must meet four criteria. They must: be an enrolled junior or senior of a Pottawatomie, Oklahoma County School or an enrolled freshman or sophomore in a post-secondary school; be an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; have a desire to save for post-secondary education; and be willing to commit to a 12-month, goal-specific training and savings program. Freeman

See YOUTH IDA on page 16

## HowNiKan Subscription Request

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# Potawatomi Cornerstone: Lynchings in Oklahoma

*(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from "Lynchings in Oklahoma," written by CPN member/Tribal Rolls Director Charles Clark (Kiktode). The book will be available for purchase by mid-July 2008.*

*In the first half of this excerpt, Clark told about the murder of Mary Leard in Maud, Oklahoma in very late 1898. Here, he finishes the account of the lynching of Seminole Indians Lincoln McGeisey and Palmer Sampson for Leard's murder.)*

George Harjo was brought in for questioning and released on Friday night. John Washington was brought in Saturday night for questioning and released. Both were re-arrested January 5. The mob, having taken a special interest in the pair, took them to the Leard house and kept them in captivity for three days.

In the following statement, W. E. Hailey, an agent of the law firm of Stuart, Gordon, and Lewis, who helped investigate the lynching, described the pair's mistreatment during their captivity: "Harjo was arrested and taken to Mrs. Leard's house . . . He was then confronted by the young son of Mr. Leard, who failed to identify him as one of the two who assaulted his mother. . . The mob told him they were going to kill him and asked him which way he preferred death, shooting or burning. Hay was scattered all over the room in which he was chained and they told him he might as well prepare for death. . .

"John Washington fared worse than Harjo. John knew nothing of the murder. Six or eight men went to his house while he was eating breakfast. The men never knocked, but three of them suddenly burst the door open with the butt end of their Winchesters. . . They put a chain around him and led him to Leard's house. Then they brought him before the son of the murdered woman, but as in Harjo's case he failed to recognize him as the one who had committed the assault. Washington was held for five days. . ."

The vigilantes rode to Sampson's house in Wewoka on January 7. Pryor, the leader of the mob, knocked the front door down with a fence post and found Sampson with a gun in his hand sitting in a chair facing the door. However, he surrendered without a fight and was arrested.

After they had ridden out of town and

out of view of the other Seminoles, they pulled off the main trail, and tortured Sampson until he confessed and implicated McGeisey.

Later, when McGeisey and Sampson met at Leard's house, they quarreled in Seminole, each accusing the other of the murder. However, it is not known if, at this point, the mob was convinced that at least one of the two had killed Mary Leard. But, after several days of what appeared to be a fruitless search for the real killer, Leard decided to make good his threat to kill Indians as revenge.

H. C. Roper, Ed Martin (Leard's cousin) and Sam Pryor were appointed to lead a mob that now numbered close to 150 men. The night was cold, and a large fire had been lit in front of the Leard home. As the mob warmed themselves, they shifted their discussion to how they would kill McGeisey and Sampson.

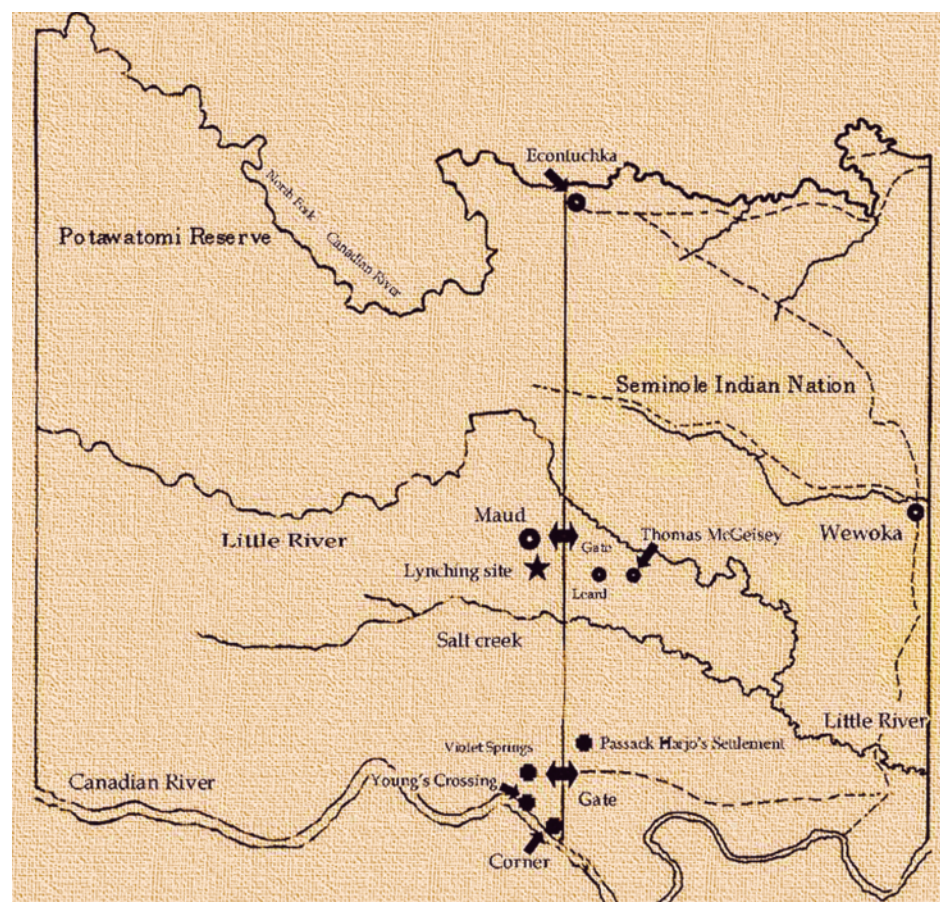
Standing at the fire, Pryor said that when he "...was in Texas a crowd had burned some n\*\*\*\*\*s." The mob responded, deciding to burn McGeisey and Sampson to death.

That evening Jones' nephew rode to the Leard home and gave the mob a message, "Nelson Jones sends word that if you aimed to do anything with those fellows to carry them across the line...carry them across, out of...the Seminole Country."

This statement seems to imply that Jones thought the mob could avoid federal prosecution by taking its victims into Oklahoma Territory, which seemed to make perfect sense, except that Indians were protected under federal treaties. It made no difference where they were taken because the Western District's jurisdiction followed them wherever they were taken.

The Indians were shackled together and loaded onto a wagon at about 2 a.m., January 8. Martin (Mary Leard's father), Nix, Ballard, and Stankewitz escorted the Indians across the border. Pryor, Ivanhoe, and Roper burned down Leard's house, the barn, and other property belonging to McGeisey. The 60 or so men were cautioned to remain quiet and not to shoot their guns and attract attention to their movement. The mob quietly joined with the wagon.

The procession advanced across the border to a Baptist Church summer taber-



*This map of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Seminole Nation illustrates where events in the McGeisey-Sampson lynching occurred.*

nacle (brush arbor) near Maud because it was made of easily ignitable poles and brush. Word had gotten out about the mob's intentions. When it arrived near 3 a.m., about 200 eager onlookers met it.

The mob chained its victims to a tree near the brush arbor, gathered brush, and placed it about them. The Revs. Holt, Guinn, and Butterfield were present. Rev. Butterfield refused to pray for the men, who were given a chance to pray and did so, in Seminole.

To justify their actions, Leard told the crowd that Sampson would make a full confession in Seminole, which he would translate. Leard translated Sampson's statement: "Yes I killed her..." When Sampson was asked who was with him, Leard translated it as, "I was with Lincoln (McGeisey)."

Leard translated that the two Indians started off together to borrow Julius Leard's saddle that fateful morning.

When Leard's wife refused to lend Sampson the saddle, he said, "Let's go up

and (assault) her."

According to Leard's translation, Sampson said, "The two of us came back after dark, hitched our horses on the back side of the lot here and came into the house from over there through the gate. Lincoln tells me to come, and Lincoln went into the house at the east door where the woman was.

"I heard the children crying and the woman scuffling. She came out of the south door of the side room of the little house. I was standing right at the big house and Lincoln says 'Shoot her.' I snapped at her and the gun would not fire. She run out by the big house door towards the gate and me after her. She turned in a circle towards the well marking a circle north coming straight back to the east of the kitchen and just before she got to the porch of the kitchen I struck her on the head with the gun. I hit her twice. Then I took the gun and stuck it back into the house. I then went down to Passack Harjo's to the dance."





*This site on the west edge of present-day Maud, Oklahoma is near where McGeisey and Sampson were lynched by burning. The precise site of the lynching cannot be determined with accuracy.*

Most of the crowd, which did not speak Seminole, had no idea the statement was false. While the fire burned the two men, six U. S. Marshals rode up to stop it. The mob held them off, took their weapons, and returned them after both Indians were dead. Then the lawmen rode away.

The fire blazed for twelve hours, completely burning the limbs from the victims' trunks. The trees were cut down to undo the chains. Still chained together, Sampson's and McGeisey's remains were taken to the Seminole Nation.

Rev. Holt recalled the burning as he kneeled and prayed for the Indians: "The flames leaped forth. McGeisey was the first one to move a muscle, and that not until the flesh was beginning to drop from off his right thigh and the flesh of his right arm began to burn, at which time the flame caught his right ear, and then his hand went up as though in the act of brushing off a fly. He then gave a loud whoop and bent over as far as the chain would allow him and sucked in the leaping flame, and then sank down and expired without showing any more signs of pain.

"But not so with Palmer Sampson. He did not move a muscle until after McGeisey had inhaled the flames. Then he commenced to kick with both feet, throwing with his feet burning pieces of wood 25 or 50 feet away. It was with difficulty that they succeeded in getting him burned."

Neither notification of the murder nor the activities of the posse was sent to the Seminole Indian Authorities until January 9. Two days later, Seminole Nation Governor John F. Brown related the following message to C. N. Bliss, the Secretary of the Interior: "As governor of the tribe, I was not even asked to make an investigation of the murder. I knew our people were suspected, and, if appealed to, would gladly have rendered any assistance in my power. The murderers of this

defenseless woman should have been summarily dealt with and their necks broken."

Several days later, the marshals who had been detained during the lynching returned with warrants for mob members. The incident touched off hostile feelings between the Seminole Nation and its white neighbors. The January 12, 1899, *Daily Oklahoman* reports of possible Indian reprisals, which created a panic in the area. However, those rumors attacks were proven false.

In the period that followed the lynching, U.S. marshals, including Jones, tracked down and arrested suspects on charges of murder and conspiracy. Jones double-crossed the mob to protect himself, but he was later indicted.

In January 1899, Congress appropriated about \$20,000 as indemnity to be paid to those injured as a result of the lynching, in accordance with Article 18 (11 Stats. p. 704) of the 1856 Seminole treaty. It provides as follows: "The United States shall protect the Creeks and Seminoles from domestic strife, from hostile invasion, and from aggression by other Indians and white persons not subject to their jurisdiction and laws; and for all injuries resulting from such invasion or aggression full indemnity is hereby guaranteed to the party or parties injured out of the Treasury of the United States, upon the same principle and according to the same rules upon which white persons are entitled to indemnity for injuries or aggressions upon them committed by Indians."

A total of \$13,078.75 was eventually paid as restitution. Jones was sentenced to twenty years in prison and served his time at Jefferson City, Mo. Ballard and Mathis served ten-year prison sentences at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Ivanhoe and Pryor were sentenced to three years, but served twenty-one months. In all, 69 people were arrested in connection with the lynching of McGeisey and Sampson.

Julius Leard escaped prosecution. In 1929, Frank Leard and three members of his family were decapitated in a car wreck not five miles from the spot of Mary Leard's death.

Third party accounts recorded from personal interviews in the late 1930s illustrate the pattern of inconsistencies concerning Leard's murder. Grover Rutherford with the Works Progress Administration, Indian-Pioneer History project for Oklahoma, conducted the following interview in 1937.



*The Leard family poses, with Julius and murder victim Mary sitting. Frank, who was called on to try to identify his mother's killer, is standing between his parents.*

In 1898, two Indian boys who lived near the present town of Maud went to the home of a white woman, who lived near Earlsboro, to borrow a saddle. She would not lend it to them, and later she with her baby was found murdered. The whole country became excited, and there was much talk of war between the whites and Indians. Some white men captured the two boys and burned them at the stake. . . It was learned later that the two Indian boys

who were so cruelly punished, were not the guilty parties and both the whites and Indians learned a lesson about the mob method of the handling of crime.

The most disturbing report of the incident detailing the Leard's death comes from the dissertation "Violence on the Oklahoma Territory – Seminole Nation Border: The Mont Ballard Case" by Geraldine M. Smith, 1957. Her version is based on information taken from a letter written by U.S. Marshal Leo E. Bennett to the Attorney General on January 20, 1898. Smith says: According to the story told by the eight-year-old son, Frank Leard, an Indian came to the house and asked to borrow a saddle. Mrs. Leard refused and he went away. Soon, however, he was back with a companion. Entering the house, he grabbed up a gun and pointing it at Mrs. Leard, pulled the trigger. The gun failed to fire and in anger the Indian struck her over the head as she tried to run from the house, holding her baby. The blow was hard enough to break the stock from the barrel of the gun. Then, while she was unconscious, one of the Indians held her head between his knees while the other raped her. Next, the Indian who had raped her

*See POTAWATOMI CORNERSTONE on page 15*

## The Citizen Potawatomi Nation

**Presents**  
**The 3rd Annual**  
**Josh Heupel**  
**"Day of Champions"**  
**Football Camp**

**Date: Friday & Saturday,**  
**July 18 - 19, 2008**  
**Time: 8 AM - 3 PM**  
**Ages: 7-14 boys & girls**



**Bethel High School Football Field**

Camper must have valid Tribal ID or CDIB card in order to be eligible to participate.

**Fri-Kids Day Saturday-**  
**FANTASY FOOTBALL DAY!!**

On Saturday, each child can bring a parent or guardian to spend the day working as a team in all types of competition. Don't forget water and shoes!!

Camp limited to first 120 applicants. Sign up now!

**For a "Day of Champions" football camp application, go to**  
**[www.potawatomi.org/Downloads/Downloads\\_GetFile.aspx?id=737](http://www.potawatomi.org/Downloads/Downloads_GetFile.aspx?id=737)**  
**or call Jack Barrett at 802-2264. Registration deadline is July 1.**



## 'Heaven-sent' Potawatomi family rescues injured woman



*Carrie and Gary Melot, along with their boys Daniel, left, and Jake, rescued a young woman stranded on the side of the road near Stockton in December 2007.*  
by Ruth Roberts, Staff Writer

When the Gary and Carrie Melot and sons Daniel and Jake pile into the car for a road trip, the Oakley, California residents often pass the time playing a game they call "Spot the Wildlife." Usually what they find are creatures such as pheasants, rabbits and deer. But, in the early morning

hours of December 30, 2007, along a foggy, deserted stretch of Highway 4 near Stockton, California, what they spotted was a woman.

"I was looking out the window and thought I saw someone slowly waving - kind of like the princess wave - and I asked my family if we should turn around, and

they all said 'Yes'," said Gary Melot, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member, who was with his wife Carrie and two young boys, Daniel and Jake. "We just couldn't believe what we saw."

Standing behind a chain-link fence, dressed only in a black skirt and blouse, Jessica Banks had been stranded in the cold for nearly four hours before her rescuers found her.

"I knew I was badly hurt because I couldn't really move my neck or shoulder," said an emotional Banks during a phone conversation at her mother's house in Antioch. "I was really scared. I thought I was a goner."

The 23-year-old Concord resident had been driving home around 4 a.m. from her part-time job as a waitress in a Stockton nightclub when she fell asleep behind the wheel. Her small car swerved off the road, flew over a 10-foot chain-link fence, and bounced into a steep ravine. She was knocked unconscious as the force of the blow had broken the sliding mechanism on the car seat and pushed her backward.

"I woke up in the back seat," said Banks. "I had no idea what had happened or where I was, but I knew I needed help."

Dazed and bleeding, she managed to climb to the front of the car, which was quickly filling with water and mud.

Although seriously injured, she crawled out of the car and up the ravine to the fence. Unable to get over the fence, however, she resorted to waving weeds and sticks in the hopes of attracting someone's attention.

Finally, the Melots came along. "I just fell out of the car when I saw her," said Carrie. "She was standing behind the fence...this tiny little thing...dressed in black, covered in mud, with dried blood on her face. We grabbed some blankets out of the car and passed them over to her, but she was hardly able to hold them. I handed her a bottle of water through the fence but she couldn't even hold on. She was shivering and clearly in shock."

After calling 911, the Melots asked if they could call anyone for Banks. She gave them the numbers of her parents and boyfriend.

"She was pretty wild-eyed but talking coherently," said Carrie. "It seemed like forever before help came. but they got there and took her to San Joaquin General. We didn't know the extent of her injuries then, but we were grateful we had been there and hopeful she would recover."

Doctors are calling Banks their miracle patient. Suffering a broken neck and shoulder, her injury was one vertebra away from

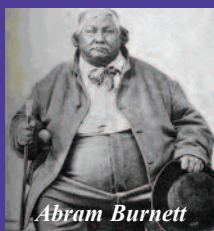
*See MELOTS RESCUE on Page 15*

## Paul Wesselhöft CPN Legislative District #9

Paul served as a Sergeant during the Vietnam era and is a retired U.S. Army (Airborne-Ranger) Chaplain. Major Wesselhöft is a Veteran of the First Persian Gulf War (Desert Shield, Desert Storm) serving in the frontline offensive for the successful liberation of Kuwait from Iraq.

Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M.Div. is currently serving our state as a State Representative, Oklahoma House of Representatives, District 54: Moore and South Oklahoma City.; he organized, and is a founding member of, the 18 member Native American Caucus for the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Representative Wesselhöft serves the State Legislature as Vice-Chairman of the Joint (House/Senate) Committee on State-Tribal Relations and serves the National Congress of American Indians on their national committees for Education, and Economic Development.



*Abram Burnett*

Paul, a fifth generation Oklahoman, is married 31 years to Judy; they have two children: Justin & Holly. He is a natural leader in the lineage of his great-great-grandfather, Chief Abraham Burnett. Paul is an experienced leader in our state and nation, and with your vote, promises to serve our tribe with distinction as a legislative leader for the Potawatomi Nation.

*I am asking for your continued support and prayers. I thank you tremendously.- Paul Wesselhöft.*

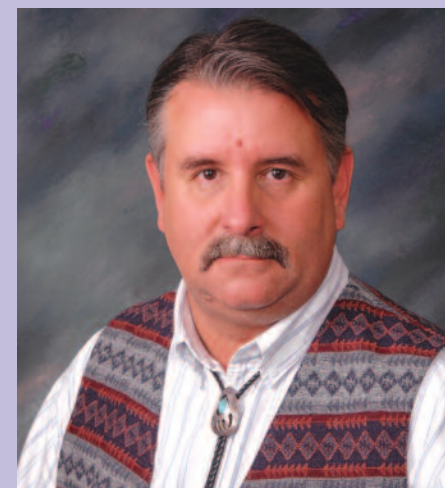
## Paul Schmidlkofer Legislature - District #12

Fellow CPN Members,

During my tenure on the Business Committee, your Nation has made tremendous strides in providing services to members and securing our financial future. We have made *LARGE* increases in the amount of financial help available to members who are pursuing continued education. We have doubled the burial assistance. We have opened our beautiful home to tribal members' cultural and historical legacy and enhanced opportunities to learn our beautiful tribal language.

We also stepped up in a major way to earn much more gaming income. And, of course, we have completed the shift of representative authority within the Nation to members across the U.S.

I'm committed to making decisions that make even bigger strides for you,



the members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Please help me do that by voting for me on your absentee ballot or in person on Saturday, June 28.

Migwetch,  
Paul Schmidlkofer





### Archival Notebook

#### R. Blake Norton, Tribal Archivist

The Archival Notebook is an informative look into the activities of the Cultural Heritage Center's (CHC) Tribal Archives. Within the newsletter we will discuss exciting current and future projects, as well as projects that readers can do at home. Readers will have the opportunity to take a look into a real archival and collections management program.

In 2007, the Tribal Archives added 23 new collections to its permanent holdings from tribal members who graciously donated and or loaned materials during that years Family Reunion Festival. With this in mind, I encourage all tribal members, young and old, to donate and or loan any historical, genealogical and cultural material at this years Family Reunion Festival.

I recommend that all of those who are interested in donating and or loaning materials to the Cultural Heritage Center to please contact the Tribal Archives prior to the 2008 Family Reunion Festival and have the appropriate documentation sent to them. Having this documentation completed, prior to the Festival, will make the donation process faster and easier.

We must continue collecting and preserving this material, in order to provide tribal members, visitors and scholars of the tribe an in-depth and accurate look at Potawatomi life.

Additionally, if you are interested in obtaining materials dealing with your

ancestral family, please contact

the Tribal Archives for more information about our Family History Collection.

Tribal Archives contact information:

R. Blake Norton, Tribal Archivist  
(405) 878-5830 ext. 7120  
bnorton@potawatomi.org

Czarina Thompson, Image Specialist  
(405) 878-5830 ext. 7108  
cthompson@potawatomi.org

### DISPOSING OF U.S. AND TRIBAL FLAGS

Is your U.S. or Tribal flag frayed, torn, or soiled? If so, let the CPN Veterans Organization correctly dispose of these flags in a proper ceremony.

All you have to do is drop off your flags at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center and the Veterans Organization will take it from there.

### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

The CPN Veterans Organization has initiated a project to furnish much-needed personal items to our troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The following is a list of items the troops have requested that are not readily available to them. If you care to contribute one or more of these items, please drop them in the collection box located near the Tribal Veterans Wall of Honor in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center.

#### CANDY

Candy (heat resistant) - Fruit Breezes (throat drops) - Twizzlers

#### CORRESPONDENCE

# Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center and FireLake Gifts Preserving Potawatomi Heritage

Writing Paper and Envelopes - Pens and Pencils

#### DENTAL

Floss - Mouthwash - Toothbrushes - Toothpaste

#### DRINK

Coffee (instant) - Coffee Creamer - Gatorade - Powdered Drink Mixes - Tea Mixes (sweet) - Kool-Aid bursts

#### FOOD (including dry goods, snacks)

Sugar packets - Bars (Clif or Balance) - Beef Jerky - Canned Fruit (pop-top cans) - Cereal (in small boxes) - Girl Scout Cookies - Granola Bars - Gum - Oatmeal (instant) - Pop-Tarts - Ravioli (pop-top cans) - Tuna Kits

#### GAMES

Board Games - Checkers (travel size) - Chess (travel size) - Crossword Puzzles - Playing Cards

#### MUSIC

CD Fanny Packs - CDs - Tapes - DVDs, new and used - Hand-held electronic games - Sudoku books

#### PRINTED MATERIALS

Books (novels, short stories) - Newspapers (local) - Magazines

#### TOILETRIES/HYGIENE

Baby Wipes - Nose spray - Eye Drops - Deodorant - Feminine Hygiene Products - Foot Powder - Hairbrushes - Hand Lotion - Hand Sanitizers (waterless) - Nail Clippers - Q-Tips - Razors (disposable) - Shampoo - Sunscreen - Tissues (heavy-duty, i.e. Puffs) - Travel-size body wash - Tylenol (individual packets)

#### OTHER

Plastic spoons - American Flags (small) - Baggies (with zip-lock) - Batteries (AA, AAA, D, ....) - Bug Spray (must be packaged in zip-lock bag) - Duct Tape - Disposable Cameras - Flashlights

(mini/mag lite, extra bulbs, lots of batteries) - Fans (battery powered - small - with extra batteries) - Fly Strips - Fly Swatters - Pre-Paid Phone Cards - Shoe Insole Cushions - Socks (cushioned, white, calf-high)

#### SEASONAL

Canned turkey and Thanksgiving food items - Small unbreakable holiday decorations - Christmas stockings -

**NOTES:** Post cards are also great to send in the packages. You can pre-address the postcard to yourself or your organization with a note asking the service member to please let you know if he received the package. You **do not** have to put a stamp on the post cards; the service member can mail them for free back to the States.

The U.S. Postal Service offers FREE boxes for Priority Mail. You can also order free boxes from the USPS online store (for use with Priority Mail shipping only). The recommended size is the #4 or #7 box. Or call 800-222-1811. Wrap items well when packing soap/toiletries in the same package with food items. In warm weather, it's best not to include these in the same package.

**Museum, Archives, Library, and  
Tribal Heritage Hours**  
Tuesday- Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
405-878-5830 - [www.Potawatomi.org/culture](http://www.Potawatomi.org/culture)

**FireLake Gifts Hours**  
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
405-275-3119 - [www.FireLakeGifts.com](http://www.FireLakeGifts.com)



# Naming Ceremony explained



by Justin Neely, CPN Language Program Director

The history of the Naming Ceremony within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is quite young, although what we do today is based on historical data and how other Potawatomi groups have been performing it for a number of years. The key thing to remember is the essence and importance of receiving a name. In the past, when a child was born, he or she would receive a name within the first 30 or so days of after birth.

Often, an elder would be given tobacco and asked to pray for guidance for the name. This elder would often wait at least 30 days for a dream or revelation as to this name. This is why it is important to give the tobacco first to the person you wish to name you. It is also important to allow plenty of time so that the right name will be chosen.

It was also said that when a child was born, Mamogosnan, or God, could see the child but could not see his or her face. Often, the father wouldn't even see the child until he had received his or her name.

Today we find ourselves in a unique situation. Many of our elders do not have their names, as do few of our 27,000 members. In addition, many of our members live outside Oklahoma, adding a different element. Another factor that we have to deal with is that few of our members know what clan they are in. In the old days, a child would be given a name either of an ancestor or a relative, a name based on his clan, a name to recognize his war service, or a name based on some characteristic or trait that they possess. Because few of our families know their clans, we often look to either their family history, war service, or characteristics in choosing a name.

Another factor that is unique today is that we don't know many of our members

in the intimate way we would if we all lived in the same village. Sometimes when researching a family's history, it is hard to come up with a Potawatomi name associated with that family and written in the language. For example if a person's ancestor married a French man several hundred years back, as did many of our ancestors, then she might not have seen the need for an Indian name. In addition, the Potawatomi language was always an oral language until the Jesuit priests started writing biblical texts in order to convert the Potawatomi people. But the writing systems that they developed often varied from priest to priest.

Additionally, because our society was an oral one, people performed ceremonies a little differently, group to group and, sometimes, from family to family. The way we conduct our naming incorporates many of these older customs. The most important item to consider is the gift of tobacco. In years past, people also might give gifts to the namer. However, because we do this as a service for CPN members, a gift of tobacco is sufficient.

Also, it is important to have a meal after the naming. Today this is seen as the gift for the namer. Instead of having expensive gifts this is your gift. Thus, it is important to put some effort into the food. Perhaps you can prepare a traditional dish or make a favorite dish.

Another tradition we continue is having sponsors - a man and a woman. It is their responsibility to keep you out of trouble; they are like godparents. Obviously if you are an older person and live a good life, you might not feel you need this, but it is still done to maintain the tradition.

Another element is the announcement of the name to each of the four directions. This introduces the named one to the spir-



*The Citizen Potawatomi Nation provides a prayer circle for namings and other ceremonies at its Sharp property (upper left), located near Raymond Peltier Park. Above, CPN Rep. Eva Marie Carney receives her name from Chairman John Barrett as Rep. Ron Goyer and Vice Chairman Linda Capps sponsor her. Rep. Gene Lambert watches at left of the photo.*

its of the four directions.

Also, we have a fire. When each person enters the prayer circle, he offers a little bit of water back to the earth and then some tobacco to each of the directions and the fire.

It is important to dress modestly at this or any ceremony. It's even nicer if you can wear a ribbon shirt. You are going to receive from the experience what you put into it. If you wait until the last second to give your tobacco or you bring a bag of beef jerky for the meal, that will demonstrate how little this ceremony means to you. If you take it seriously, give your tobacco to the namer in plenty of time, bring a nice dish or food, and dress appropriately, it shows that this is important to you.

Other things that might be done at your naming include a song or two in the language, a prayer, a pipe ceremony, and the telling of our creation/origin stories.

Another element which is different today is that we ask those who have been named to become namers for their families. It will be very difficult for only those of us in Shawnee to name 27,000 tribal

members.

Your own naming might not look exactly like the one that we perform. Perhaps you will want to sing a song in Potawatomi or perform a pipe ceremony. But try to keep in mind the important elements - the tobacco, food, and sponsors. Also try to incorporate as many of the other elements as you can, such as the story and or a simple prayer in Potawatomi.

The language department is ready to assist you should you need help with learning a simple prayer and will help with translation of your names. One thing that you might want keep in mind if you become a namer is that, when you get that gift of tobacco from someone, you should take it out and pray with it. Put that tobacco down and wait. It might take a month, or it might be three months before the appropriate name is revealed.

Another thing to keep mind is that you don't have to say everything about a person in his Potawatomi name because certain land features and or animals already make you think a certain way. For example, an eagle would give you certain

*See NAMINGS on page 16*



## Walking On

### Jerrald Marion Anderson



Jerrald Marion Anderson, 62, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, passed away Sunday, March 2, 2008. He was born March 6, 1945 in Choctaw, Oklahoma, the son of Davis Russell and Ina Lorene (McCallister) Anderson.

Jerry was a 1963 graduate of Choctaw High School, lived in the Broken Arrow area all of his adult life, and was retired from Safeway. His love of crappie fishing and 1950s music was surpassed only by his devotion to family and friends and his constant and abiding faith. Jerry's dynamic presence, sense of humor, and loving heart will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his loving wife, Beverly, survivors include his daughters Kimberly Kay Anderson of Searcy, Arkansas and Shellie Renea Bledsoe, of Eldon, Missouri, and their mother, Kay Cummins, of Tulsa; daughter Libby Reigh of Stillwater, Oklahoma; son Robert Bonnell of Moore, Oklahoma; daughter-in-law Terra Bonnell; sons-in-law Michael Bledsoe and Riley Reigh; grandchildren; Ashley Trout, Sam and Cullen Marler and Baylee and Brooklyn Bledsoe; great-grandson Jarrod Ray Chesney; sister Sheila Barnes of Choctaw, Oklahoma; three brothers; David and wife Sharon of Tulsa, Larry Wayne of Choctaw, and Kenneth and wife Linda of Broken Arrow; sister-in-law Connie Schilling and husband Steve of Millersport, Ohio; and many loving nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, Steven Marler. Memorials may be made to Clarehouse of Tulsa and Grace Hospice.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at Hayhurst

Funeral Home Chapel. The family greeted friends from 6:30 to 8:00 pm Wednesday, March 5 at Hayhurst Funeral Home in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

### Steve Dibler

PEORIA HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS - Steve



L. Dibler, 61, of Peoria Heights died unexpectedly Saturday, March 22, 2008, after being stricken a short time earlier at his residence. Steve was born on August 23, 1946, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, the son of Elmer and Anna Melot Dibler. He married Edna "Cookie" Frickleton on January 24, 1965, in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Surviving are his wife of Peoria Heights; two sons, Richard Dibler and his wife Amy of East Peoria, Illinois and Dusty Dibler and his wife Amy of West Peoria, Illinois; three grandchildren, Britney, Matthew, and Whitney; three brothers, Danny Dibler and his wife Kathy of East Peoria, David Dibler and his wife Twila of Rayville, Kansas, and Daryl Dibler and his wife Dale of East Peoria; and one sister, Annita Simpson and her husband Billy of Canton, Illinois. His parents preceded him in death.

Steve was proud to be a tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He was a member of the East Peoria Boat Club for many years. He was a member of the Alta Masonic Lodge 748 (life member) and was a member of the Mohammed Temple, Shrine, in Bartonville.

Through the years, he and his wife owned several businesses including Illinois Marine Technologies in Peoria Heights and Dibler's Friendly Tap in Peoria.

A celebration of Steve's life was held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the East Peoria

Boat Club from 6 to 10 p.m. Cremation rites have been accorded. The Endsley Funeral Home in Bartonville was in charge of arrangements. To send condolences online to the family go to [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).



*Steve Dibler's family members display a Pendleton blanket from the CPN at the celebration of Steve's life. From left, they are Rusty Dibler (Steve's son), Daryl Dibler (Steve's brother), and Edna 'Cookie' Dibler (Steve's widow).*

### Eleanor Fincher



Eleanor Fincher of Chandler, Arizona passed away on February 14 at the age of 93. She was born September 16, 1914 in Trousdale, Oklahoma, the daughter of George Arthur Gregson and Cora (Livvix) Gregson.

Eleanor was the mother of three children, Evelyn Scott, Betty Sue Beisel, and David Fincher. She also had seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Warren Fincher, in 1983 and her daughter, Betty Sue Beisel, in 1956.

Eleanor's life revolved around her family and her faith. Before her death, Eleanor had the privilege of being part of a family of five generations. She was a faithful and dedicated Jehovah's Witness since 1965. Eleanor was also a member of the Citizen

Potawatomi Nation.

### James Elbert "Jim" Gorrell



James Elbert "Jim" Gorrell, 73, of Salina, Kansas died on Friday, May 4, 2007. Mr. Gorrell was born on June 6, 1933, in Salina, the son of Elbert and Rose Pauline (Cook) Gorrell. He was a custodian for USD 299, Sylvan Grove, Kansas, retiring in 1998.

Survivors include his wife, Marleen June; a son, Michael James Gorrell and companion Steven Henoeh of Salina; a daughter, Connie Bledsoe and husband Steve of Dorchester, Nebraska; a brother, Kyle Waddell of Lawrence, Kansas; two sisters, Shirley Lobb and husband James of Oskaloosa, Kansas and Marion Waddell of Kingman, Arizona; two grandchildren, Shane Rohrig of Sylvan Grove and Misty Revenew and husband Ty of Topeka, Kansas; and four nieces, Kathy, Sharon, Suzie, and Janet.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina. Inurnment was at 3 p.m. May 8, 2007 in Sylvan Grove City Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the church, 111 W. Magnolia, Salina. There was no visitation.

Carlson-Geisendorf Funeral Home, 500 S. Ohio, Salina 67401, handled arrangements. To send condolences, visit [www.carlsonfh.net](http://www.carlsonfh.net).

### Fleta L. Ables

Fleta L. "Granny A" Ables, 96, of Topeka, Kansas passed away on Saturday, *See WALKING G ON on page 10*



*Walking On, con't. from page 9*



April 26, 2008 at her home. She was born May 10, 1911 in Rossville, Kansas, the daughter of Francis M. Stackhouse and Mary Ann McGuire Stackhouse.

She married Ernest E. Ables on December 31, 1929 in Topeka. He passed away on August 10, 1961. She was a mem-

ber of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by five sons, Elmer, Ernest, Earl, Charles and an infant, Edwin Ables. She is survived by two sons, Eugene Ables of Kansas City and Emmett Ables and his wife, Janice, of Topeka; 21 grandchildren; and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Friday, May 2, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Park Cemetery. Granny lay in state from noon until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1 at the Davidson Funeral Home in Topeka, with family visitation from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice Services and sent in care of the Davidson Funeral Home.

#### **David Gene Bibb**

Shawnee, Oklahoma resident David Gene Bibb David passed away on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at his home in Shawnee. He battled a list of illnesses for several years and was surrounded by his family when the Lord called him home.

He was born on January 19, 1951, in Oklahoma City, the son of James Eli and



Mamie Ruth Bibb. He was a well-known rock, block and masonry contractor. He enjoyed camping with his family and trout-lining with his brother. He will be greatly missed.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Mamie Bibb; father, James Bibb; brother, Jerry Harp; and son, James Eli Bibb. He leaves behind his wife, Lucy Bibb of the

home; daughter, Frances Bibb also of the home; daughter, Ruth Merrell and husband James of Newalla, Oklahoma; son, David Bibb Jr. and wife Joni of Shawnee; son, Joseph Bibb and wife Sandy of Newalla; daughter, Brenda Ray and husband James of Shawnee; daughter, Lucy Lyons and husband Rocky of Tecumseh, Oklahoma; 14 grandchildren; four brothers; six sisters; and several nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

He was the light of our lives, and he will shine forever in our hearts.

#### **Dorothy Welch**

Dorothy K. (Kensbock) Welch, 84, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a lifetime resident of Leavenworth, Kansas passed away on Monday, February 4, 2008, at the Golden Living Center in Lansing, Kansas. Mrs. Welch was a member of the Greemore Potawatomi family.

Dorothy was born on October 12, 1923 in Lansing, the daughter of Frank and Rosalie Kensbock. She married Willard W. Welch on June 1, 1948. They were married for 54 years. Dorothy was a full-time homemaker and a loving wife and mother.

She was preceded in death by her par-

For more info visit [www.chadhigbee.com](http://www.chadhigbee.com)

Pride in the past, building a bridge to the future through:

# Chad Higbee

Fairness - Openness - Results

CPN Legislature, District 12

June 28

Please vote CHAD HIGBEE on your absentee ballot or in person.





Missouri; 28 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Davis Funeral Chapel, 531 Shawnee St. in Leavenworth. She had chosen to be cremated, and the ashes were interred at a later date.

#### Belinda Jolene Cheatwood

Longtime Grand Prairie resident and Grand Prairie Memorial Library employee, Belinda Jolene Cheatwood, passed away on April 29, 2008 after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.

Born at home in Lexington, Oklahoma during a snowstorm on December 13, 1958, Belinda moved to Grand Prairie soon after her graduation from high school in Maud, Oklahoma. Beginning as a Library Aide at the Grand Prairie library, Belinda developed into a highly-skilled library technology specialist, handling the library's computer systems. Diagnosed in 2000, she continued to work throughout her struggle with cancer. During this time, she was recognized for her many contributions to the library by being named Employee of the Month for the City of

ents; her sister, Esther Robinson; her brother, Robert Kensbock; three daughters, Nancy Rose, Yvonne Hall, and Barbara Chambers; and her husband, Willard.

She is survived by a brother, Gene Considine of Fulton, Illinois; four children, Willard J. Welch and Wayne T. Welch, both of Leavenworth, Ron L. Welch of Parkville, Missouri, and Maryann (Welch) Bell of Grandview,



Grand Prairie in May 2002. After 26 years of service, Belinda retired in 2006.

Belinda enjoyed the company of a devoted circle of friends who admired her graceful approach to her illness. In her

spare time, she liked to travel, crochet, and solve puzzles. She found great joy in her rat terrier, Savannah.

Belinda is survived by her mother, Dovie Cheatwood of Maud, Oklahoma; and her four sisters and two brothers, Mary Goodgion of Tecumseh, Oklahoma; Garlin Dale Cheatwood of Edmond, Oklahoma; Dorothy Wallace of Maud; Beverly Sanford of Holdenville, Oklahoma; Kenneth Cheatwood of Meeker, Oklahoma; and Janna Wallace of Maud. Her father, Garlin Cheatwood, preceded her in death. Also mourning her death is her beloved animal companion, Savannah. Belinda will also be missed by her many friends and co-workers

Friends were invited to a time of sharing of memories at the Grand Prairie Memorial Library, 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

### 2008 Family Reunion Festival Honored Families

Bruno, Darling, Hardin, Higbee,  
Lewis, Nadeau, Slavin, Smith

# Paul Schmidlkofer

## CPN Legislature - District #12

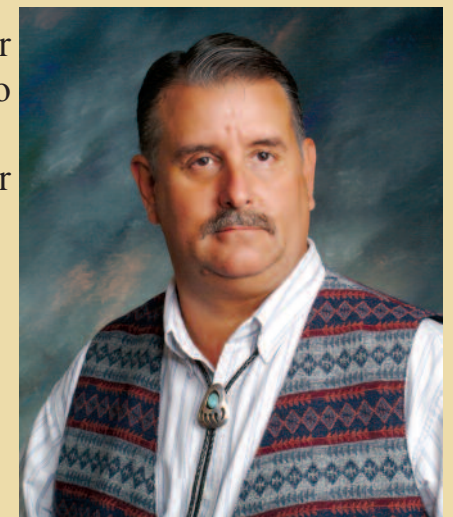
"It has been a pleasure and an honor to have been able to serve our Nation over the past four years. I look forward to what the future holds for us, and I am eager to have the opportunity to represent you again in the coming years.

"As we undertake this next chapter in our Nation's great history, I would like to ask for your support and vote in the upcoming election, ending on Saturday, June 28." - Paul Schmidlkofer



*"We, the members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Executive Committee, urge members who live in Oklahoma to use their votes to continue the strong leadership and solid decision-making that Dist. #12 Rep. Paul Schmidlkofer provides. Paul has been a vital part of the growth of scholarship, housing, burial, and other benefits for all tribal members.*

*"We believe it is very important that you Oklahoma members mark your absentee ballot for him or cast a vote for Paul Schmidlkofer in person on Saturday, June 28." - Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale*



Dist. #12 Rep. Paul Schmidlkofer



## Language Department News

### Survival Potawatomi

People are often looking for common phrases they can learn and start incorporating into their daily lives. This really is a very effective technique for learning Potawatomi. Start substituting words that you learn in Potawatomi for their English counterparts. We will start a beginner Potawatomi class in early May for those who would like to learn in this manner - with useful phrases/expressions. If you are interested, please send an email to [jneely@potawatomi.org](mailto:jneely@potawatomi.org). These phrases will be recorded and listenable/recordable on the Web site [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org) under Culture, then Language.

1. Ni pi je ezhyayen? - Where are you going?
  - a. Odawewgemgok nde-zhya. I am going to the store.
  - b. Gaga she skonogemgok nwi-zhya. Soon I am going to school.
  - c. Cho ngoji. No where.
2. Kenep - Hurry
  - a. Gaga nwi-biskonye. - I will be dressed soon.
  - b. Ni pi je wa zhyaygo? - Where are we going?
  - c. Ode jo pi nde-bya. - I am coming right now.
3. Mno Gishget ngom. - It's a nice day today.
  - a. Konege nesh je kche noden. - Yes, but (it's)really windy.
  - b. Wi ksenya odanke gishgok. - It is going to be cold on Saturday.
  - c. Nbgosenjege wi mno gishget numa gishgok. - I hope it will be a nice day on Sunday.
4. Megwa ne? - More?
  - a. Eh hegh, Megwa. - Yes, more.
  - b. Cho ndepsenye. - No, I am full.
  - c. Pene she shena nda-wisen megwa. - I can always eat more.
5. Wegni je nedwendemen? - What do you want?
  - a. Nin ne gnijokmo nyano gishgok? - Could you help me on Friday.
  - b. Gda gzhadawso ne wabek npenojeyek? - Could you babysit my kids tomorrow?
  - c. Neyap byan gkiktomen. - Come back let's talk.
6. Gdotmes ne? - Are you busy?
  - a. Konege, Ndotmes. - Yes, I am busy.
  - b. Cho ndotmesi. - No, I am not busy.
  - c. Cho ode jo pi. - Not right now.
7. Nomek gkiktomen - Let's talk a little while.
  - a. Wegni je wa kiktogyo? - What are we going to talk about?
8. Gbukte ne? - Are you hungry?
  - a. Gawa nbukte. - I am kind of hungry.
  - b. Ngigishwisen. - I already ate.
  - c. Konege, nedwendan ewisneyan. - Yes. I want to eat.
9. Gbektem ne? - Are you hungry? (plural)
10. Ni pi je wa je wisneygo? - Where are we going to eat?
11. Ni je pi wa majiyen? - When are you leaving?

- a. Gnebech, ngot dbegenak. - Perhaps at 1:00 (o'clock).
- b. Ngigishzhya. - I already went.
- c. Cho nwi-majisi. Gin gwimaji. - I am not leaving, you are leaving.

12. Bidgen. - Come inside. (one person)
13. Bidgek. - You (all) come in.
14. Gego zhech ke ken i. - Don't do that.
15. Nasena zaskokwan gzhede mget. - Be careful. That skillet is hot.
16. Mno gishget ewi bgesygo. - It's a nice day; let's go swimming.
17. Gmedagwendan ne gwedemojgeyen? - Do you like to fish?
18. Ggashknabagwe ne? - Are you thirsty?
  - a. Cho, Ndepnabagwe. - No, my thirst is quenched.
  - b. Eh hegh, Nwi-mnekwe. - Yes, I want a drink.
  - c. Wegni je etoyen mkom kekosek? - What do you have in the fridge?
19. Dokem penojeyek mbe'k. - Be quiet. The children are sleeping.
20. Byetnen I sitagen. - Pass me the salt.
21. Byetnen I waskek. - Pass me the pepper.
22. Shonya ne gdeton? - Do you have any money?
23. Wegni je nago ga zhechkeyen? - What did you do yesterday.
  - a. Nago ngi-mikchewi. - I worked yesterday.
  - b. Cho gego apje ngi-yabyetes. - Nothing really; I was lazy.
  - c. Waskonedoyen ngi-gteganen. - I planted flowers.
24. Wegni je echegeyen ode jo pi? - What are you doing right now?
  - a. Ndotmes ewawijgeyan. - I am busy reading.
  - b. Cho gego apje. - Nothing really.
  - c. Ni je wi? - Why?
  - d. Wegni je emnesyen? - What do you need?
25. We ni je o? - Who is that?
  - a. Ngwes yawe. - He is my son.
  - b. Ndekweyom yawe. - She is my wife.
  - c. Holly Zhenkasot. - Her name is Holly.
  - d. Cho nkenmasi o bmadzet. - I don't know that person.

The Potawatomi Language Program staff invites you to participate in our Family Reunion Festival activities. We will have a language class at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 27 in Reunion Hall North. And, Don Perrot will have presentations on the "Ceremonial Life of the Potawatomis" at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28 in the Cultural Heritage Center.

We hope each of you can attend the 2008 Reunion Festival, June 27-29.



## Quality Housing for Quality People



\* The CPN offers a quality-of-life upgrade at its CPN Elders Village in beautiful, friendly Rossville, Kansas. The spacious housing units offer two bedrooms and come equipped with ALL major appliances.

\* All of this is available for a sliding scale rent that maxes out at \$250/month. YOU WILL PAY NO MORE THAT !!

\* For a short time only, your seventh month is free with a one-year commitment.

\* We are developing a shuttle service to transport our Potawatomi residents to locations in Rossville and nearby Topeka for medically necessary reasons.



\* The CPN Elders Village is a short walk or a quick car trip from anything you need in Rossville. Topeka, the Kansas capitol, with all the shopping, entertainment, medical services, and other amenities you need is a very short 15-minute trip away.

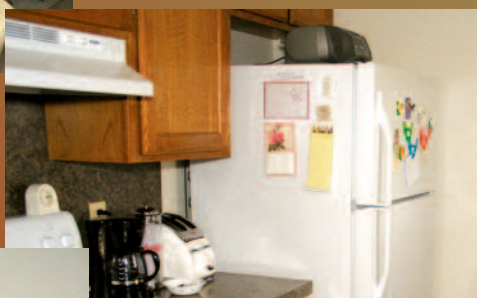
\* Rossville is traditional Potawatomi land; reminders of our past are everywhere. The people of Rossville are very welcoming and accommodating.



\* Groups of Potawatomis from in and around Rossville are using the community center for social activities and learning opportunities. Recently, there have been dress-making and powwow dance classes.



*Your home can be like this - with a spacious living area and bedrooms along with a well-equipped kitchen and utility room!!*



*The Kansas capitol, Topeka, is a 15-minute drive away, with plenty of shopping and lots of recreational activities, from a top-notch zoo to the trails in Shanga Park to the Summer Nationals drag-racing event.*

## Enhance your quality of life!

Call Scott George at 405-273-2833 or 800-880-9880 for more important details.





# CITIZEN POTAWATOMI

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### 2008 Stimulus Payments: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, more than 130 million American households will receive economic stimulus payments beginning in May. The only way to get one is to file a federal tax return for 2007. Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you must file a 2007 return in order to receive a payment this year.

If you have not yet filed my 2007 tax return you can still qualify for a Stimulus Payment in 2008, but you must file a 2007 tax return. The IRS encourages you to file a return even if your income is low or much of your income is tax-free. Although your payment will be delayed, if you qualify for a payment you can insure that you get it by filing your return by Oct. 15, 2008. By filing by Oct. 15, 2008, the IRS can process your return and issue a stimulus payment before the end of the year. Once you have filed your 2007 return the IRS will send you a notice showing the amount of your payment. You do not need to call the IRS or fill out any other special forms.

Essentially, there are two parts to the stimulus payment: a basic amount based on tax liability, filing status or other qualifying factors if there is no tax liability and an additional amount based on whether a qualifying child is reported on the return. Although some filers, such as high-income filers, will not qualify for a stimulus payment, most will. Most people with a 2007 net income tax liability will qualify. Families with children under 17 generally will qualify for an additional payment.

Some people with no tax liability also will qualify. This includes Social Security

and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, recipients of certain veterans' payments, low-income workers with earned income and/or benefits of at least \$3,000 and individuals who have combined income of at least \$3,000 from any combination of these sources. Some higher-income taxpayers will not receive a stimulus payment or will receive a reduced payment. A taxpayer must have a valid Social Security Number to qualify for the stimulus payment. If married filing jointly, both taxpayers must have a valid Social Security Number. And children must have valid Social Security Numbers to be eligible as qualifying children.

#### Basic Amount of Payment

Taxpayers who had a net income tax liability will receive a payment, unless they can be claimed as dependents on someone else's return, are high-income individuals or do not have a valid Social Security Number. The payment is equal to the taxpayer's net income tax liability, but no more than \$600 for a single person or \$1,200 for a married couple filing a joint return. The minimum payment is \$300 for a single person or \$600 for a married couple filing jointly.

People with no net income tax liability will usually get a minimum payment of \$300 for a single person or \$600 for a married couple filing jointly, as long as they have qualifying income of at least \$3,000.

Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify a child must

be under age 17.

The stimulus payments will not have any effect on eligibility for federal benefits such as temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps or Social Security.

#### Date of Payment

The Treasury Department will make payments starting in early May. Early filers, especially those who choose direct deposit, will get their payments first.

If the IRS finished processing your return by April 15 and you chose direct deposit your payments will most likely arrive on May 2, May 9 or May 16. If you did not choose direct deposit, checks will be mailed between mid-May and mid-July. For this initial batch of stimulus payments, the payment date will be based on the last two digits of your Social Security Number.

The stimulus payment will be mailed to the last known address the IRS has on file. If you have moved since filing my 2007 tax return you should file a Form 8822 with the IRS and a change of address notice with the U.S. Postal Service. This will ensure your check is sent to your new address. Without your current address, the check could be returned to the IRS as undeliverable.

#### Taxes and Past Due Tax Liabilities

You will not owe tax on your payment when you file your 2008 federal income tax return. But you should keep a copy of the IRS letter you receive later this year listing the amount of your payment. In the event you do not qualify for the full amount on your 2007 return but you do on your 2008

return, you will need to have the letter as a record of the amount you previously received. The Stimulus Payment will not reduce your refund or increase the amount you owe when you file your 2008 return.

If you are eligible for a payment but still owe federal income tax from a prior year the Stimulus Payment is treated like any other tax refund. This means that part or all of your payment can be used to pay past-due federal or state income taxes or non-tax federal debt such as student loans and child support.

If you file a joint tax return with your spouse who has a past-due obligation you can ensure you get your share of the joint Stimulus Payment you can file Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. You will get your share of these payments, and your spouse's share will be applied to his or her past-due federal or state income taxes or non-tax federal debt such as student loans and child support. Your allocation request will be processed more quickly if you attach Form 8379 to your regular 2007 federal income tax return.

You won't get a stimulus payment in 2008, if any of the following apply to you:

You don't file a 2007 tax return; Your net income tax liability is zero and your qualifying income is less than \$3,000; You can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return (whether or not you actually are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return); You do not have a valid Social Security Number; You are a non-resident alien; or You file Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ, Form 1040PR or Form 1040SS for 2007.





## Couple gives back after cancer triumph

By April Wilkerson, Shawnee News-Star Staff Writer

When breast cancer tried to force Darcee Yancey, a Citizen Potawatomi nation member, from the life she loved, she pushed back. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation were in her arsenal, but she fought with things perhaps just as powerful: the longing to watch her youngest child graduate from high school, the desire to see her first grandbaby born, the yearning to do things in life she'd always put on the back burner. And she won the battle.

Darcee was declared cancer-free in the fall of 2007, after a year's worth of gut-wrenching treatment. In April 2008, she and her husband, Dwight, owners of Shawnee Cleaners and Laundry, donated 10 percent of their earnings to Relay for Life, which raises money for the American Cancer Society. They also walked during the event, on April 25.

They said it's a way to give back after so many people cared for them in their toughest times. "We don't take life for granted anymore. It's changed our outlook," Dwight said. "It was a blessing the way people supported us. I was shocked at how people would tell me they were praying for us, and we were on many churches' prayer lists. Many people were not our customers. They would just see us and ask if they could do anything for us."

Two years ago, Darcee's battle with breast cancer began as it does for many women with the disease: she felt a lump. A mammogram revealed that it was nothing to worry about, but the lump kept getting bigger. Later that year, she had a biopsy, which confirmed the lump was cancerous. She underwent a partial lumpectomy, which removed the entire tumor, followed by two rounds of chemotherapy then radiation. At the time, she and her husband were both 44 years old, and they wondered if this was the end of life as they knew it.

"The chemo was awful," Darcee said. "Just the thought of it made me throw up. I got sick even before I went. My hair falling out didn't bother me as much, but when I woke up, there would be hair everywhere. When I took a shower, my hair would come out in my hands."

There was another level of worry, however. Darcee's brother had leukemia at the time, and he has since died from it. Her father also had leukemia, and her mother died of lung cancer. Darcee and Dwight



*Dwight and Darcee Yancey are pictured at their business, Shawnee Cleaners and Laundry. The couple participates in Relay for Life after Darcee successfully battled breast cancer. They are donating 10 percent of their earnings this month to cancer research. ED BLOCHOWIAK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER*

were particularly concerned about their youngest child, Andrew, now 11, because he had seen so much suffering from cancer. "All he knew was that when people get cancer, they die," Dwight said. "I don't think he thought his mom was going to die, but he saw Darcee's brother deteriorate, and that's what he thought his mom was going to do."

But it was family that kept Darcee going on days when she didn't feel like it. She and Dwight have three children, Ashley, Ryan, and Andrew. Each pitched in to keep the family strong, Dwight said. They joke about it being the year that Ashley learned to cook. "I worked my way from one end of Harrison to the other, from McDonald's to Sonic, then I'd start all over again at the end of the week," said Ashley, now 24. But despite the family's penchant for laughter, it was a difficult year, she said. "It was weird. She always took care of us, and now we had to take care of her," Ashley said. "It was a complete reversal of what we'd known."

Even though a recurrence of cancer never leaves her mind, Darcee said she spends more time thinking of the things she'd like to do, not the possibilities for worry.

"I used to be more of a homebody, but I'm not so much anymore," she said. "Nothing lasts forever, so you might as

well have fun. I've learned that there are more important things in life than making money. You can't just sit and work and work and work. You have to do other things in life."

*Melots rescue woman, con't. from page 6*



*Jessica Banks survived thanks to an alert, helpful Potawatomi family, Gary and Carrie Melot and their sons.*

what's called the "hangman's break," the same injury that paralyzed the late actor Christopher Reeve.

"It's truly a miracle. The Melots saved her life; they are heroes," said Banks' mom, Rebecca Rouffeau. "She was already in a state of hypothermia when they found her. We are so blessed and so grateful to have Jessica home."

Jessica's the real hero," said Gary. "She basically saved herself. I just happened to look up at the right place at the right time.

How she managed to climb out of the car and up the hill with the injuries she had, I don't know."

"The whole family was just so moved by her," added Carrie. "We think about her all the time and feel really blessed to have been there when we were. It still gives me goose bumps."

Banks was released from the hospital in mid-January 2008. Although she will be in a halo – a stiff metal brace that holds her neck in place while it heals – for approximately three months, everyone involved knows how fortunate it was that the drama had a happy ending.

"I think they are heaven-sent," Banks said of the Melots. "I can't wait to see them again so I can thank them in person. I know I'm a lucky girl. I'm very happy to be here."

*Potawatomi Cornerstone, con't. from page 5* held her in a similar manner while the second Indian raped her also. They left Mrs. Leard near the door of the house and departed, but later in the afternoon, they returned and both raped her again. She was dead when her body was last violated, according to those who prepared the body for burial.

What in fact occurred during Leard's murder might never be known.

*For more information about purchasing a copy of "Lynchings in Oklahoma," visit [www.LynchingsInOklahoma.com](http://www.LynchingsInOklahoma.com) or e-mail [Kiktode@yahoo.com](mailto:Kiktode@yahoo.com).*

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### CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION ALL-INDIAN OPEN 2008

**Dates:** August 1 (Scramble), August 2 and August 3 (Individual Stroke-Handicap Play)

**Where:** FireLake Golf Course in Shawnee, Oklahoma

**Times:** August 1 - 8 a.m. Shotgun Start/August 2 and 3 - 8 a.m. Tee Times

**Cost:** \$25 for scramble only (CASH PRIZES!)

**Cost:** \$100 for weekend stroke play tournament (CASH PRIZES!)

**Cost:** \$125 for all 3 days

**Format for scramble:** Blind draw

**Format for weekend stroke play tournament:** We will have two divisions. One for stroke play (No handicap) and one for stroke play (Handicap deducted). You must have a USGA, GHIN, or pro-attested handicap to be eligible for handicap division.

**MUST HAVE A TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP OR CDIB CARD**

#### Prize Fund for Stroke Play Tournament

Stroke Play	No Handicap	Handicap Division
1st	\$750	\$500
2nd	\$600	\$450
3rd	\$500	\$400
4th	\$450	\$350



New team is 0-3 but very competitive

# Lacrosse displays heart

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's new Lacrosse team was 0-3 at press time. However, the team has played some very close games against more experienced competition.

"Our boys made us proud the first time they played in blue for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation," said Coach Michael Dykstra. "James Coppock got us on the scoreboard first with a wicked assist from Gage Humphrey."

Then, Caleb Brown's hard work paid off in the second quarter when he scored his first goal. The CPN team trailed, 7-2, when time expired. "However, the hard work in goal from Librado Ramirez kept the contest close," Dykstra said. "He stopped nearly a dozen shots before the day ended."

Creed Humphrey played courageously at midfield and defense; the little guy worked as hard as anyone on the Edmond team.

"Christian Sanders dodges and cradles very well and shows promise for games to come," according to Dykstra. He said that Devin Hutchinson wields his long stick with force on defense, letting his opponent know who is in charge. Shane Ventris has heart where others falter. Trae Trousdale and Ocean Thunder have incredible skills for their young age, showing great potential.

"I can't wait to see these boys in the coming games. We're proud of them and encourage you to come out and cheer them on," Dykstra said.

The team played two close games on Saturday, April 25 against a team from Tulsa. "Even though our boys were a little smaller and we also had fewer players, we still stood our own against Tulsa," said Coach Justin Neely. The first game was close but ended in a 3-2 Tulsa victory.

In the second game, the CPN team took a quick 4-1 lead. "Then the boys just started to wear down," Neely said. "We had 11 players with us; ten had to be on the field at all times. For the first game, our opponents had almost 25 boys. The second game was a little better because we were able to borrow a couple of kids to give some of our boys a rest."

Neely added, "All of the kids played their hearts out. I think Trae Trousdale put it best when he told me, 'I want to get back in there and play the whole game,' after Coach Dykstra



*The CPN Lacrosse team's Cole Ratton skirmishes with a Tulsa player for ball control (above). In the top photo below, CPN players Christian Sanders (#7) and Cole Ratton (#6) move the ball downfield. The bottom photo shows the CPN team's Dalton Freeman, Caleb Brown (#5), and Creed Humphrey (#14).*

pulled him out to get a breather."

Caleb Brown and James Coppock scored most of the goals but Dalton Freeman fired one in. There were also a number of near-goals by Cole Ratton and Creed and Gage Humphrey.

"Overall, the kids looked real good. They passed the ball around and did a great job at cradling," Neely said. For those unfamiliar with Lacrosse, cradling is a technique used to keep the ball in the stick even when the opponent is trying to knock it away.

"We are looking forward to a great rest of the season. Also, we are planning on doing a scrimmage at the Family Reunion Festival in June," coach Neely said.



Namings, con't. from page 9



*Vice Chairman Linda Capps names Rep. Jacqueline Taylor as her husband, Nelson Taylor, and her sister, Pat Hall, sponsor her.*

thoughts or a bear makes you think things like strong, caring, and ferocious. So when you name someone, you don't have to say strong, ferocious bear. Obviously, this would make for a very long name, which would be difficult to say and to remember. If you called this person bear or black bear this would already bring to mind these other traits and would be much easier to remember and say.

So, if you want a name, keep these elements in mind. And, if you are attempting to name your family, remember these elements as well. Try your best to do these various things. You should only be naming your family if you yourself have a Potawatomi name. If you do, it will be a great and blessed experience for you as the namer and for your family. Also remember there are several people here in Shawnee who can name you, including Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman Linda Capps, Don Perrot, and myself, as well as others who have received their names.

Youth IDA, con't. from page 3

says the program has been opened to participation by CPN members who will be college freshmen or sophomores in the 2008-09 academic year.

The CDC will contribute the two-for-one match for as much as \$75/month for each participant. Including three possible \$200 CDC contributions for a participant's meeting three benchmarks (an additional \$600), each participant could leave the program with \$3300 in a savings account dedicated to paying post-secondary education expenses. A participant who earns the maximum match would have deposited a minimum of \$900 of his own funds in the savings account, for an "interest rate" of 266.67 percent.

The benchmarks that have to be met to

earn the additional \$600 are attaining 12 hours of Potawatomi Language and Culture instruction, maintaining a 3.0 GPA throughout the 2008-2009 school year, and attending the four-day, CDC Financial Education Camp in June 2008.

The financial education camp will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day, June 9-12, 2008 in the CPN's South Reunion Hall. Lunch will be provided.

During the camp, participants will create their life vision, set financial goals, learn the importance of credit, and learn how to make informed financial decisions. After all participants complete the financial camp, they will continue to receive training in bi-monthly peer-group counseling sessions in August, October, and December 2008 and February, April, and June 2009.

Asked about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's motivation for offering the matching money, Freeman said, "Providing match dollars is a way to help hard working students build a more stable and secure future. Everyone benefits when more members of a community have the tools they need and the productive assets to provide for themselves and their families."

Prospective participants can call Freeman at 878-4697 to learn more or obtain an application form.

## Police Chief Warren honored by ESGR

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Chief Donald Warren has been selected to receive the Patriot Award of the ESGR, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Police Chief Warren's award recognizes outstanding support of the National Guard and military reserve forces.

Nominated by James Henderson, a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, Warren is being honored for outstanding support and cooperation.

ESGR is an organization of volunteers that supports defense needs while working with civilian employers.

**Pre-register for  
Family Reunion Festival  
2008 on the home page  
of [www.Potawatomi.org!](http://www.Potawatomi.org!)**



# Legislators' Columns

## Dist. #1 Rep. Roy Slavin

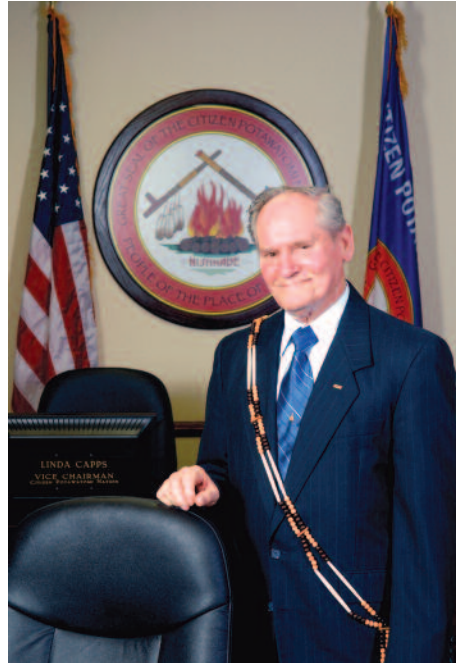
Bozho, Citizens of District #1,

Please accept my gratitude for allowing me to participate in this historic event. I am at once humbled and proud to be a participant in this first-ever Indian government that truly represents all the citizens of this great Citizen Potawatomi Nation. After three very intense days of orientations, reviewing budgets, meeting all the directors of the various governmental departments and enterprises, and attending the first-ever meeting of a legislative body that truly represents all the citizens of this great nation, my head is spinning with all the information, facts, figures, and regulations that have been presented.

As I promised in my campaign ads, I will endeavor to pass this information on to you, the citizens of District #1. To do this I will use a Web page being created for the legislators at [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org). It will have links under Government, then Legislature.

This will be announced in the *HowNiKan* at a later date. My e-mail address is [RSlavin@Potawatomi.org](mailto:RSlavin@Potawatomi.org) or [rjslavin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjslavin@sbcglobal.net). If you would like to have information sent to you, please send contact information, either e-mail or mailing address. You may also call me at 816-741-8480.

I am on the Health Services Committee



and the Education Committee. Both of these committees have a wide spectrum of subjects that may be of interest to you. I will be seeking your input on matters before the legislature. Please tell me of any interests or expectations you may have.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL.

Roy Slavin  
Legislator, District #1

## Dist. #2 Rep. Eva Marie Carney

Hello, fellow Potawatomis!

Thank you for the great honor of representing you in the Legislature as the District #2 Representative. Did you know that the CPN is the first (and so far the only) tribe that elects representatives to its Legislature from throughout the United States? The Potawatomis continue to be innovators, in this and in many other arenas.

District #2 covers a lot of ground, and our citizens are highly dispersed. It encompasses all of the Southeastern United States – Alabama, Arkansas, the District of

Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. If you live in District #2, please know that I am your “voice” in Shawnee, Oklahoma. I live in Arlington, Virginia and have a law practice in Washington, D.C., both of which are geographically distant from many of you. I hope that, despite the distance, we are able to visit together about CPN issues and what you hope the Nation will accomplish. I pledge to do my best to represent you, and to bring to the legislative process all

the skills and knowledge I can muster.

I just returned from Oklahoma and our Tribal lands, my first trip to both. The warmth I was shown and the pride everyone displayed in the Tribe’s vision and accomplishments were remarkable. The tone for the long weekend was set by Mrs. Linda Capps who picked me up at the Oklahoma City airport herself late on a Wednesday evening. Despite the late hour, Ms. Capps was most gracious and entirely energized about the many upcoming legislative events.

The sense of warmth and pride continued through four days of legislative activities, one highlight being a special reception we attended for all tribal employees who are CPN members. The large numbers in attendance spoke to the fact that we truly are a self-governing Nation.

The inaugural CPN Tribal Legislature convened on April 24, 2008, after a swearing-in ceremony at which CPN Chief District Judge Philip J. Lujan administered oaths of office. Our first official act was to consider and adopt a Code of Ethics mandatory for all the legislators. Starting with ethics seems to me to have been the very best way to begin, and something our original families would have been proud to see.

We then received briefings on – and later toured – the many tribal enterprises, including our national bank and casino operations, senior and limited-income housing, and the Health Clinic and Child Development Center.

In other legislative business, we passed rules by which we will operate during our sessions, and were tutored on the budget process for the Tribe’s \$350,000,000 business and government operations, which, as you can imagine, is highly complex.

We also discussed Committee assignments. I am pleased to report that I will serve on two committees that Chairman Barrett will chair -- the Rules & Government Committee and the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee. The first is responsible for District Affairs, Tribal Rolls, Elections, Redistricting & Apportionment, and Citizen Communications; the second for Police, Emergency & Safety, Civil and Criminal Code Enforce-



ment, Courts, Tags, Indian Child Welfare, and Family Preservation.

Before we reconvened, many of us received Potawatomi names on a beautifully crisp and sunny morning. The namings took place during a moving ceremony led by Chairman Barrett that was held in a traditional Potawatomi Prayer Circle. Each of you were in our thoughts as we all said the prayer for the Potawatomi People and deposited tobacco into the fire that burned in the center of the circle.

During our final session, we agreed that one of our first actions should be to make sure that all CPN citizens receive information from the Tribe about the new Government, contact details for each legislator, and information about the benefits available to our citizens. As you may know, these benefits vary depending on each person’s age and situation, but they are significant and should be accessed by everyone who is eligible and interested. Please watch your mail for a letter from the CPN that provides all of this information and requests you to send back to us your e-mail address so that we can contact you more regularly, efficiently, and inexpensively.

That letter also will include a personal invitation to you from the Legislature to attend The Family Reunion Festival on Friday through Sunday, June 27-29, 2008, in Shawnee.

This will be my first Family Reunion



Festival, and it will be thrilling to meet CPN District #2 citizens who attend, whether during a gourd dance, over a game of horseshoes, or while looking for photos of our ancestors in the archives of the Cultural Heritage Center. As you read this column and the invitation letter you may feel the way I'd felt before visiting Shawnee for the first time: a little uncertain about whether there's a place for you, especially if you don't have ties to Oklahoma (many of us who live in the Southeast do not). I can only share with you my experience of the last week – everyone showed me warmth and inclusiveness and made Shawnee immediately feel like home.

I hope you'll take this opportunity to share conversation, meals, and our ceremonies with fellow Potawatomis. If you can't make it this year, please do put it on your calendar for next year, also at the end

of June. In my July column, I will share some of my Festival experiences and, I hope, whet your appetite for travel to Shawnee in 2009!

After spending most of four days together, I can report that my 15 fellow representatives (who include Chairman John 'Rocky' Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, and Secretary Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale) are highly accomplished, thoughtful people with a seriousness of purpose and ability to work hard and make sound judgments. We really do want to do a good job for you. It is your government, so please let us hear from you. I will be opening up a District office in Washington, D.C. shortly – please look for the details on the CPN Web site. In the meantime, e-mail or call if you want to connect.

With warm regards,  
Eva Marie Carney (Ojindiskwe)

## Dist. #3 Rep. Robert Whistler

As we go through the seasons each year, it is phenomenal that we are beginning what I believe to be the start of the greatest era of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation! As spring is bringing forth the new blossoms of life for 2008, your Nation, too, is beginning a new life event! The second of the three planned governmental branches has been put in place.

On April 23rd, your newly elected legislators came together in Shawnee and met as a group of 16 on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 24-26, 2008. The first two days were spent in a familiarization phase, allowing those of us who are new to this arena to visit all of the tribal enterprises along with meeting staff.

The third day, Saturday, we held our first "open door" session of the legislation in action. The new direct stream communication line was broadcast live over the CPN Web site for your viewing. You will have the same opportunity to view first-hand each session of our future legislative conferences in the years to come.

For those of you who haven't seen our continuous growth, we now have approximately 50 departmental and/or enterprise areas. Eight committees have been set up, breaking these 50 areas down into a manageable group to be readily overseen. Each of the 16 members of your legislative group will generally work on two of the



eight committees. However, all of us will also be responsible to oversee and approve the "Appropriations & Budgets" function.

Some of the individual areas included in the individual eight committees are: Elders, Scholarships, Health Facilities, Energy, Tribal Enterprises, Banking, Family Preservation, Tribal Rolls, and Citizen Communication.

I had the opportunity to meet numerous tribal employees and staff, a great many of whom are members of your and my families. Talk about being qualified! The breadth of education, experience, and knowledge is fantastic. We are blessed to have so many individuals who love their jobs and are here to serve each of us.

We have relatives who have worked for

some of the state and federal government agencies that CPN must deal with on a regular basis. That gives our Nation a step up in being keenly aware of the many pitfalls and minefields that stand in the way of securing what we were guaranteed in past treaties or authorized to receive by the Federal government.

I know that those of us who live outside Oklahoma wonder why we can't get some of the benefits that those who live in Oklahoma receive. In a few words, knowledge is power! What I didn't know is that many of the funds that our Nation receives are specifically restricted by the Federal government for use not only just in Oklahoma, but in just five counties, for some funds!

We have very qualified staff whose job is interfacing with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Child Welfare, and Indian Health Services searching for opportunities to increase the funds we receive from each of those agencies.

While they work on this, there are some opportunities for health care outside Oklahoma. In Legislative District #3, central and eastern Texas, we have the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas. Their address is 209 E. Jefferson Blvd., Dallas, TX 75203. The phone number for the clinic is 214-941-1050. They have limited dental services and, for medical areas, you should call the clinic for more information and setting up an appointment.

In the Eagle Pass area, there is a Kickapoo clinic and their phone number is 830-757-0322. For those of you, who live close to the Oklahoma border, please call the main number of Indian Health Services in Oklahoma City for information on clinics that may be close to you. Their phone contact is 405-951-3828.

Keep in mind that, as a Native American, you are eligible for the services at any and all clinics that receive monetary support from Indian Health Services. If you are told you don't qualify or don't have the correct ID, get me a name and a phone number and we will get you the services you are due!

At our clinic in Shawnee, we take care of many Native Americans from other tribes because we are partially funded by IHS. What is good for us is good for all!

For those of you who live elsewhere in the U.S., there are a number of clinics that can provide some health services to you. If you go onto the internet and pull up [www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov) and then display the section

entitled "Area Offices and Facilities", you will find that there are facilities in Aberdeen, South Dakota (serving North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska); Alaska Area; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bemidji, Minnesota (serving Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin); Billings, Montana (serving Montana and Wyoming); California; Nashville, Tennessee; Navaho Area (serving Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah); Oklahoma City area; Phoenix area; Portland, Oregon area (serving Oregon, Washington, and Idaho); and Tucson, Arizona area.

You can also do as I did and call the US Department of Health & Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20201 for individual area IHS-funded facilities. Their phone number is 301-443-3593. They gave me some of the information noted above and may be able to direct you to a site with IHS funding in your home town or nearby.

As a point of interest, there are 36 tribes in the state of Oklahoma alone. All are applying for the same monies as the CPN. In some cases, regardless of the tribes' relative sizes, the allocation is divided evenly among the groups. It is unfair that a tribe with one-tenth the enrollment of ours receives the exact same amount of funding that we do! Our tribal leaders have taken on this challenge in the past, and I know it will be continued in the future for parity in those areas.

As with any dealings with the government, change comes very slowly. A factor that is often overlooked by those of us away from the burner is that, each time we have a change in federal political party dominance, procedures tend to change and we have to start over on a project that had been close to completion. Fortunately, our tribal staff does persevere and has the patience to forge ahead in spite of the obstacles.

In closing, let me remind you that our Family Festival will be held on June 27, 28 and 29 this year. We plan to have a specific area set aside for you to come and meet each of us legislators. Look for a posting at Festival advising when I'll be there. I look forward to meeting you, talking about your needs and ideas! As I said in my campaign for office, "I intend to serve you well!"

Megwetch,  
Bob Whistler, Legislator  
District #3/Central & Eastern Texas



## District #4 Rep. Theresa Adame

First, let me start by thanking all of you who put your trust in me. It is going to be a big job for us, but together I see only positive growth for our citizens. I would also like to publicly thank my dad. I called him my campaign manager. He made calls to many of you who probably hadn't heard from him in awhile on my behalf. This is one of the best things that came out of my election. We made contact with many of our long-lost cousins.

I have just returned from Shawnee for our first legislative session. It was three long days packed with tours, meetings, and lots of discussions. One thing that was clear to me is Kansas is in a unique position. I have the smallest geographic area with a large concentration of citizens. I have thousands of citizens within a 50-mile radius. Most projects that will work for us would never work in other areas, with the exception of Oklahoma.

I was sworn in on the first day of our trip. Words can not express my excitement. I have been to regional meetings for years; it was my job to drive my dad. All those years, I had watched, listened, and admired our leadership. To be sworn in and sit next to them in our newly formed legislature was overwhelming.

I have considered myself over the years an informed spectator. I knew what the programs the tribe offered were. I followed the elections, to cast an educated vote. I thought I saw all there was when I attended Family Reunion Festival. I am pleased to report our Nation's enterprises are larger than I anticipated.

We have a child development center that would put any of our private or public schools in Topeka to shame. Our medical and dental facilities serve thousands of people a year, and you will be glad to know the parking lot at the FireLake grand Casino was full.

One of the biggest challenges we discussed many times was the involvement of our citizens. How do we know what areas need improvement? To represent you, you are going to have to let your voice be



heard. In place of regional meetings, I anticipate visiting areas for an informal gathering. If this is something you would be interested in initiating please contact me.

I saw in the news during Native American Month a story about a native soldier about 25 years old. It was an event to demonstrate drum music. His quote was, "I have never heard a drum before." I felt so sorry for this young man. Like many of our children in Kansas, he had not had the opportunity to be exposed to many of our native customs; this has to change. Our pow wow in Rossville is a good first step. I hope to meet and talk with many of you there, for a fun day of celebration.

While I was in Shawnee, many of the representatives were named in a beautiful morning ceremony. I was named a few years ago at a Rossville regional meeting. I know many of you there were interested in being named that day, but time did not allow. If you would like to make a request to be named please contact me.

I am in the middle of setting up an office so correspondence for now will have to be by e-mail to [Tadame@potawatomi.org](mailto:Tadame@potawatomi.org). Please check the CPN website as I will soon have a District #4 page. It will be found by clicking on "Government" on the Web site home page, then selecting "Legislature" then "District #4."

I am here to help you and your family.  
Theresa Adame - CPN Rep., District #4

## District #5 Rep. Gene Lambert

Hello Everyone,

I am so excited to share the wonderful opportunity I was gifted a few weeks ago when you elected me as your Legislative Representative for our people in District #5. I only wish you could have been there to experience the presence of the great leadership we have available to us. You would have walked away knowing that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is secure, prosperous, and without question the greatest Native American Nation in this Country.

Everyone in Shawnee has over-extended themselves to be certain that everything was in place and operating for the very first meeting of its kind. Chairman John Barrett, and Vice Chairman Linda Capps were overflowing with gratitude and excitement to see the success of another undertaking to represent "all." I believe together we can accomplish anything we set out to do.

It is very important now that the communication between the legislators and their constituents be open and plentiful. As we progress and participate in the steering of this great Nation, your ideas, thoughts, comments, and concerns are necessary for our future.

In order to properly address the needs of District #5, I will need your time to ensure that this is about your needs and concerns, not my thoughts. You can reach me at 800-452-8966 or 480-668-0509. My e-mail address is [GLambert@Potawatomi.org](mailto:GLambert@Potawatomi.org) or [cpnregion05@earthlink.net](mailto:cpnregion05@earthlink.net). You can write to me at P.O. Box 5905, Mesa, Arizona 85211.



Please, please include your e-mail address, phone number, and address to ensure my ability to get back to you on any question or input you may have.

This is how we can contribute to the steering of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. It belongs to you and I, and we can be proud of our membership and heritage.

I want to hear from you. As a group, we will be successful in this new legislative process. Let's join in and be a part of this exciting new adventure with which we have been gifted.

Again, a sincere 'thank you' for electing me to represent you. I will do my best to serve you well.

Warmest personal regards,  
Eunice Imogene (Gene) Lambert  
Legislative Representative, District #5

### Potawatomi Gathering Bus Trip

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the annual "Gathering of the Nations" for tribal members and their immediate families. A chartered bus will leave the Potawatomi Nation headquarters, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. Gathering dates are August 8-10, 2008. The bus will leave to return home on Sunday, August 10, 2008. The bus will arrive at the Potawatomi Nation headquarters on Monday, August 11.

A \$50 per passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend the Gathering will be responsible for their own food, lodging, and incidentals expenses. To reserve a seat on the bus or obtain more information, please call Cathie Hanson at 275-3121 or 800-880-9880.

Because of accelerated travel costs, the bus must be at full capacity if the Nation is to make the trip. The Nation reserves the right to cancel the trip upon notice to participants. All deposits will be refunded if the trip is cancelled.

**Listen to "The Native American Speaks"**  
**on KGFF-AM (1450) or on KOKC-AM (1520)**  
**on Sunday mornings or on [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org) anytime.**



## District #6 Rep. Ron Goyer

Bozho Nikanek (Hello Friends),

As your new legislator for Southern California and portions of Nevada, with the help of the rest of tribal council and our tribal leadership, I will be bringing quarterly activities to the members in our region. Some of these activities might be held at a new office that will open soon in San Diego County. These gatherings will consist of cultural activities designed to bring family, friends, and all Potawatomi closer together.

I would like to invite all of our tribal members to contact me with their ideas so that we can enhance the cultural activities for these events. I will do my best to make sure that your ideas are accommodated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime via e-mail, phone, or standard postage. My email address is [RGoyer@Potawatomi.org](mailto:RGoyer@Potawatomi.org) or [ron\\_goyer@hotmail.com](mailto:ron_goyer@hotmail.com). You may



write to Ron Goyer, Councilman, CPN, P.O. Box 2514, San Marcos, CA 92079-2514 or call me at 760-617-1597. I look forward to serving you.

Megwetch (Thank you),  
Ron Goyer "MASKNINYE"

## District #7 Rep. Thom Finks

Bosho Nikan,

I just got home from Oklahoma, and I'm tired as can be but I can't seem to quiet my mind. It's starting (I think) to sink in. Our new Legislature had its first meeting, and I was there to see it as well as be a part of it. Tribal members, now Legislators, folks just like you and me, elected by the tribal members from across these United States. We are all descendents of the original families that came to Oklahoma, coming together to form this incredible body of people. The first-ever Citizen Potawatomi Nation Legislature.

The tribe has given us tools that no other tribe has. We have capability to teleconference our meetings live to you over the Internet. If you want to attend a meeting at one of the legislative offices, you can see as well as be seen by all the members of the legislature and interact with them live. See whom you are talking to as well as hear their voice. You instantly become a part of the process.

We have the ability as legislators to teleconference or have audio meetings (sort of



a fancy conference call) with our fellow legislators regardless of where the individual legislator happens to be geographically. Neither time nor distance will impede the work of the various committees.

All I can say is WOW! I can't help but think, no strike that, **know** that great things are on the horizon.

I've been told by what some would consider experts that a committee of more than three or four people is usually a disaster but this last week we had 16 caring and visionary people come together, and it was as if we had known each other for years. The respect and honor for each individual and his or her voice was a wonderful thing to observe.

We had tons of work to do and even more to learn. We had policies and procedures to address as well as legislation that needed to be voted on and all this in three days.

I live in California, and those of you from Oklahoma have a saying that really rang true this last week. I felt like I'd been worked like a team of borrowed mules. Three nine- to 10-hour days. I believe that everyone went home with pride, knowing the work we've begun is important but I also know that we all went home somewhat brain-dead. I arrived home with a deep sense of accomplishment – our first meeting finished, policies and procedures set in place, and very happy in my belief that this journey is so very important to our tribe.

Two issues raised by the majority of the Legislators were having the ability to contact the tribal members directly in an individual district and the issue of low voter participation in the recent election.

A current and correct mailing address is needed so we can be sure that every tribal member gets a copy of the *HowNiKan*. You are entitled to and should have the most recent information about what your tribe is doing. In this age of instant communication via the internet, a current e-mail address would not only keep mailing costs down but also allow us as legislators to keep you informed as to what's going on in your district.

At this year's Family Reunion Festival, I will be making myself available to you at various times and locations to greet you,

meet with you and gather information about your thoughts and ideas. At that time I'm going to ask you for contact information. This will be absolutely voluntary. I make the promise: I will only use this information for tribal business and not divulge this information to anyone unless approved by you.

A former Regional Director for Northern California started having a summer picnic years ago. For several years, we all looked forward to that picnic but, as time wore on, they stopped. I'd like to bring back those gatherings. We had craft demonstrations, and I'm sure, if we play our cards right, we could get someone to come out from Oklahoma and share tribal stories as well as various ceremonies with us. We should have an annual or semi-annual naming ceremony. I hope to have at least one get-together in the future.

The second thing I'd like to address is voter participation. We are one of the very few tribes in the country, if not the only one, that has absentee voting. How fortunate we are, and how hard is that? You mail in a form. You get the ballot. You fill it out and mail it back. A government of the people, as well as by the people, needs people participation. If you don't vote or voice your opinion, the Legislators can't respond, and you can't complain! We have a huge responsibility, and we all need your help.

In closing, I'd like to say again how much I enjoyed meeting with the other district representatives. I can tell you without any hesitation that this group of individuals that form your new legislation are intelligent and caring folks. They have taken an oath to protect you and serve you. I know it will be so.

Megwetch,  
Thom Finks  
District #7

### CPN Environmental Health Water & Septic System Assistance Program

Water and sewer system installation for Native Americans

Call the OEHS for information or assistance

Telephone number 405-878-4672 - Fax number 405-878-4678

Requirements....

1. Tribal membership/CDIB card indicating affiliation with a federally recognized tribe;
2. Copy of a Warranty Deed;
3. A Photo ID;
4. Residence in Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Lincoln, Oklahoma, or Logan county



## District #8 Rep. Jacqueline Taylor

Bozho, Nikan,

Your new legislature is underway, Potawatomi brothers and sisters! We convened, adopted rules, received committee assignments, reviewed the progress of our Nation and, very much enjoyed meeting our counterparts from across the country with whom we will be serving.

Our next step will be to establish a district office to serve you. District #8 includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska.

My home is in Oregon; but as soon as district offices are readied, I will have the means for better communication with District #8 CPN members, wherever you live.

I appreciate the opportunity and the challenge of being a legislator in this first new form of tribal government and I am optimistic for the future of the Citizen



Potawatomi Nation. We are all family.

Megwetch,  
Jackie Taylor  
CPN Rep. District #8

## District #9 Rep. Paul Wesselhöft

History was made at 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. in Shawnee as the first session of the new constitutional legislature was seated and conducted business on behalf of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I was honored to participate as one of Oklahoma's Representatives from District #9. We unanimously passed a number of bills and resolutions. We also received briefings on all of the departments of the CPN as well as learning the budget.

It was a supreme pleasure to get to know many tribal members as well as other employees. I was impressed with everyone's professionalism and friendliness. We are, indeed, a great people.

It was also a pleasure and an honor to get to know the other 15 Representatives from throughout the United States. These men and women are all professionals in their own right. I really believe that our nation is in good and capable hands.

My legislative service is assured until June 28, 2008. On that date, I will have to stand for yet another election. The extremely short duration of three months for District #9 was essential in order to stagger the terms of office of the 16 legislators. One of the districts had to come up "on the short end of the stick." That fate



fell to district #9. If I am re-elected, I will present one of my tribal friends with some high-quality tobacco and ask him or her to give me an Indian name.

If I can be of service to you and your family, please call on me. I stand ready to serve and represent you in our government. May God bless you and your family.

Megwetch,  
Rep. Paul Wesselhöft, Dist. #9

## District #10 Rep. David Barrett

Thank you Oklahoma's Potawatomis for allowing me to represent you as one of the eight Oklahoma legislators of the 16 total legislators from across the United States.

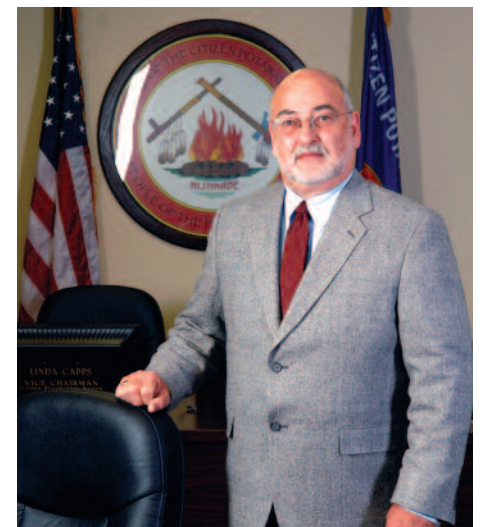
We the People (Potawatomis) are embarking on a new chapter in our history by adding the new Legislative branch to the existing Judicial and Executive branches, thus forming the typical three branches of government. The legislators need you Potawatomis (voters) to step to the plate and give us your input to become an active participant in forming new ideas to enhance our current benefits and services and enhance the growth of each for the future.

Our legislature met in April as a group for three days of legislative activities. The legislators who came from across the United States represented their Potawatomi families and all other extended families as a whole from their districts as they met with the Oklahoma legislators.

To capture the atmosphere and mood of these meetings from my perspective would be to describe it as the meeting of "Potawatomi Hearts." When a group of people comes together from different areas, you can have confusion; however, this was not the case. There were organization, harmony, unity, and cohesiveness within this body.

And, let me add, this was not accomplished by the legislators alone. Credit has to be shared with all the employees who worked on the buildings, communications, Information Technology, the massive paperwork handed to the legislators, transportation, Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman Linda Capps, and Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousedale. The IT Department worked under tremendous time pressure to make our tele-conferencing equipment work. They succeeded!

Chairman Barrett and Vice Chairman Capps invested untold hours in preparing for the legislators' visit and ensuring we were comfortable as we learned what we needed to know. The Saturday morning Naming Ceremony was an especially meaningful part of the weekend. As a result of this historic session, I would like to take a moment to share with you what it is to have a "Potawatomi Heart." My definition of a "Potawatomi Heart" is: a person who is compassionate and caring;



thoughtful of other people; respects and listens to other individuals' ideas; extends graciousness; always seeks to meet the needs of others; spirit driven; has abundant pride. I'm sure if I asked each of you how you would define "Potawatomi Heart" you could add more qualities.

Your involvement in the Nation can definitely help it grow by just the simple things you can tender. For instance, you can assist by updating the *HowNiKan* address for family members who do not live in your household so they can keep up with what the Nation has to offer and who is running for various offices. Each legislator will have a column in each issue to bring more information on different topics to you.

Voting is another way of being involved in your Nation's business. All you have to do is request the absentee ballot, no postage required; the Election Committee will mail it to you. Then, you vote and mail it back, again without having to pay postage. What a deal!

When something good happens for the Nation, you can say, "Yes, I voted for this person or I had input to my legislator on this, and she or he acted on it."

Let's look at what some of the other Legislators are saying about our historic transition to this new form of government.

**Eva Marie Carney:** "The warmth I was shown and the pride everyone displayed in the Tribe's vision and accomplishments were remarkable."

**Bob Whistler:** "Talk about being qualified! The breadth of education, experience, and knowledge is fantastic."

**Gene Lambert:** "You would have



walked away knowing that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is secure, prosperous, and, without question, the greatest Native American Nation in this Country."

**Paul Wesselhoft:** "I was impressed with everyone's professionalism and friendliness."

**Thom Finks:** "All I can say is WOW!!! I can't help but think, no strike that, know that great things are on the horizon."

**Bobbie Bowden:** "The pride and knowledge of our leaders and citizens are beyond compare."

**Paul Schmidtkofer:** "I truly believe that they all have the Nation's best interests at heart. My hopes, and to be honest, my expectations, are that they will do a great job."

**Roy Slavin:** "My head is spinning with all the information, facts, figures, and regulations that have been presented."

**Theresa Adame:** "I thought I saw all there was when I attended Family Reunion Festival. I am pleased to report our Nation's enterprises are larger than I anticipated."

We should feel this pride when we tell people we are Potawatomis or when we read about or see what the Potawatomis have accomplished. I surely do. Always keep your "Potawatomi Heart."

David Barrett  
CPN Rep. District #10  
DBarrett@Potawatomi.org

send a postcard with your contact information so planning can begin for next year.

#### Monthly News:

Over a three-day orientation in Shawnee, the new legislature met with tribal citizen/employees and countless others who keep our Nation at the forefront of innovation and progress. At each stop, it was easy to get lost in conversation and touring the facilities. Employees were always friendly, knowledgeable, and eager to explain their operations. For those programs and facilities we did not have time to visit or return to, please accept our apologies.

#### Tribal Experience and Legislative Relevance:

Whether it was a new set of glasses or a scholarship for college books and tuition, being a tribal citizen of our Nation has given me a leg up throughout my life.

When I finally graduated from college in 1995, I wrote to Chairman Barrett and asked if there was a need for an archaeologist and museum curator at the tribe. I was hired in 1996. Today, the tribe offers its members job opportunities in almost any field of work you can imagine. Had I not applied to the tribe for a scholarship or a job and had tribal leaders not been willing to mentor another generation, I would not have realized my current potential.

I was also introduced to Rhonda Butcher, our Nation's Self-Governance director. Through her Masters in Business Administration and medical background, I was able to learn from her example how to negotiate with the government. I sat at the table during our initial Indian Health Service self-governance compact and helped negotiate our first Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) compact in 1998.

I have been writing Federal grants for the tribe since 1996, beginning with technology and cultural preservation. My initial grant request was never funded. Within months, I was managing my first grant and created the tribal Environmental Program. My favorite tribal construction grant to write and receive was for a portion of the new Heritage Center and Museum.

I eventually came back to work side-by-side with Rhonda a second time to manage more than \$30 million in tribal Federal grants and contracts. My first Federal contract negotiations were for tribal assumption of the Roads Program from the BIA. We received more than \$3 million to build the parking lot for FireLake Discount Foods.

I have a Bachelors degree in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma (OU) and received my Masters degree in History/Museum Studies from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2004. I have also worked as a Federal contracting and grants specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, while living in Stillwater. I now own a consulting business and specialize in matching 8(a) contractors with Federal buyers.

I have been an employee of the tribe twice, a consultant on many occasions, a bank board member for the last 6 years, and until recently, a tribal contractor.

#### On-going Research Topics of Personal Interest:

- Oral History Project - Continue researching and documenting the lives of the living students who attended St. Mary's Academy at Sacred Heart Mission through its closing in 1946. I have had the privilege of interviewing Nila Locke and Irene Wheeler and would love to see a "Ladies Luncheon," of sorts, where the former students can take a driving tour of the Mission grounds. The Environmental staff has unearthed many features that were buried under decades of overgrowth. These revisited social sites will surely spark memories.

- Oral History Project - Continue searching for information relating to Benson Park and the old Interurban rail line located between Shawnee and Tecumseh. This turn-of-the-century amusement park featured one of the largest roller coasters in the west through the 1930s. Opera posters, a John Philip Sousa's band concert handbill, photos of Fourth of July and Labor Day celebrations, ice skating boots, and old-fashioned swimming suits, as well as pictures of the nearby horse racing track along the North Canadian River bottom can all be used to exhibit the early social influences on our grandparents living near Shawnee.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft, Rep., Dist. #11

P.S. Please don't forget the monthly reminders. Also, let me know if you enjoy the readings and would like to highlight your own research material. Perhaps we can eventually list and link them to a Web page for Tribal Rolls and our Tribal Library.

## District #11 Rep. Lisa Kraft

My committee appointments are Appropriations; Natural Resources; and Tribal Culture and Arts.

In my future columns, I hope to provide updates, at-a-glance, on each of my committee responsibilities, as procedures permit. If you would like to see specific program or financial information added to my columns or page on the tribal Web site, please submit a written request first to the Rules and Government Committee and the committee your issue falls under.

Please be aware that the topic might be brought up before the committee of the whole, i.e. the entire 16-member legislature. This ensures that information release does not compromise tribal "national" goals, privacy laws, and employee rights.

I say this, and at the same time, welcome suggestions for my monthly column and tribal Web pages that are not highly controversial or mean-spirited. As a researcher, I am much better at reporting data and measures than addressing opinions.

#### My Areas of Specialty:

- Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Governance
- Reservation Land and Jurisdiction
- Federal Grants and Contracts
- Cultural Anthropology, Museum Exhibition, and Public Archaeology

#### Monthly Reminders (Please copy, cut, and paste to your refrigerator):

1. Please vote in the tribal election on June 28.
2. Please make sure that all members of



your family are receiving their issue of the *HowNiKan* and are registered to vote, if eligible. Current contact information is essential to Tribal Rolls.

3. Plan on dancing with your family this year in the Grand Entry on Saturday night.

4. Write your tribal legislator to see how the tribe can help you. You will be surprised.

5. Talk to your kids and grandkids, and even your siblings and spouses, about applying for a scholarship for college.

6. Share your family history and current family news with Tribal Rolls, Public Information, and the Heritage Center.

#### Request for Feedback:

Would you and your family attend a Spring Festival in Oklahoma that coincides with Easter or a Fall Festival during Thanksgiving? If so, please e-mail me or



## District #12 Rep. Paul Schmidlkofer

Bozho, nikan!

Having just finished three long days of legislative orientation at the tribal complex April 24-26, I am pleased to be able to say that I believe we got off on the right foot. For some of us, it was a reminder of all that this tribe does for its members. For others, it was an opportunity to see for the first time the many things available to the members.

With the elections behind us and all the new legislators in place, Chairman John Barrett and Vice Chairman Linda Capps hosted a three-day event which allowed all the new members of our legislature to tour the tribal facilities. They had a chance to see the many different departments and meet their directors. We saw most of the complex buildings and organizations within them.

For several of the new members, it was an eye-opener. Until you actually drive around and look, you sometimes forget how far we have come. We also spent a significant amount of time on how the government works - the nuts and bolts, so to speak. For those of us who have had the privilege of serving the Nation, some of it might have seemed mundane. But I must admit it served as a nice reminder.

We had the opportunity to get to know each other. I have known several of the new members for years. So, with them, it was nice just to catch up. For the others, it was such a pleasure to get to know them. I truly believe that they all have the Nation's best interests at heart. My hopes, and to be honest, my expectations, are that they will all do a great job.

We have some very well educated and experienced individuals in this legislature. Among them there is a very nice mix of backgrounds. They will all bring something valuable to the table. As Chairman Barrett has said over the years, we do not have a monopoly on intellect in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. That has been proved out. Without exception all expressed a desire to serve the Nation.

I would like to remind you now that the Family Reunion Festival is coming up soon. Remember it is the last weekend in June, the 27th-29th. I hope you have all been planning your yearly trek back to Shawnee - and that those of you who have not been back for a while or possibly never have been will try to come this year.

We will have all the favorite activities you have come to enjoy, plus maybe a few new ones. There should not be anyone hungry again this year - well, unless that is your



choice, of course. Something my wife and doctor often remind me I should do...not overeat, that is.

For me the festival is a time to see my family. My brothers always come out with their kids and grandkids now. I get to see some of my aunts and uncle, cousins, all the rest of them. Nowadays this might be the only time we get to see each other during the year. Then there are all the tribal members (family) I get to see each year. Most are glad to see me; a few want to bend my ear. That's OK; it's part of what I signed up for. We get lots of good ideas from members that way.

I remember back when I was little, during the time we had the inter-tribal pow-wow. I would go down to the pow-wow grounds and spend a whole day just goofing off. Do a little gourd dancing. Eat some. Play with my new friends. Maybe take part in one of the activities. Well things haven't changed that much. I don't dance as much anymore. Lord knows it is about all I can do to make it through the Grand Entry. It's funny how age has a way of catching up with you. But I still do most of the rest of it. And on a good night, knees willing, I might get a couple dances in.

Well, we have some exciting times ahead of us. We are all excited and eager to see where this new legislative process will take us. I hope we can all look back a hundred years from now and say this was when we made the big change that helped us become an even greater Nation.

As always it has been an honor to serve you on the old business committee and now on the new legislature. I am up for re-election again this year. I hope you will allow me to continue to serve our nation. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. This truly is an exciting time.

Megwetch!

Paul Schmidlkofer  
CPN Rep., District #12

## District #13 Rep. Bobbie Bowden

I am proud to be a citizen of our tribe and the Legislative Representative for District #13. My service to the tribe began as a member of the business committee in August of 2007, and it has been such a learning experience for me.

During our many discussions as the newly formed legislative body, our top subject and one common goal is how to get more citizens involved. How do we get the word out to all about how much their votes count? How do we ensure the traditions and culture of our tribe will be carried on?

With that being said, I would like to share one of my many learning experiences about our culture and tradition that stands out in my head and in my heart.

On Saturday morning during our legislative meetings, I had the great honor of receiving my Indian name along with several other of my fellow representatives. We could not have asked for a more beautiful morning, and the ceremony was truly moving. There are no words to explain the feeling when watching and listening to Chairman John Barrett while he performed the ceremony.

I now have the privilege of carrying on my great-great-great-grandmother's name. For those of you who do not have your Potawatomi name, I encourage each of you to ask one of our knowledgeable leaders about the process and tradition so that you may receive your name, also.

The Family Reunion Festival is a perfect time for all of us to learn more about our culture and traditions. I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you there.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our leaders, the other represen-



tatives, and the tribal members who have all been so kind and answered my millions of questions and who have taught me so much and have so much more to teach. (Thank the good Lord because I have so much more to learn).

The pride and knowledge of our leaders and citizens is beyond compare. I have not asked one question that anyone seemed to mind answering. In fact, they have all seemed very eager to teach. I encourage each of you to ask, if you have a question about our traditions. We must learn from our leaders so we can pass the traditions on to our children.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I will do my very best to serve you well!

If I may be of service to any of you please feel free to contact me at [bbowden@potawatomi.org](mailto:bbowden@potawatomi.org).

God bless each of you.

Bobbie Bowden

CPN Rep., District #13

## Vice Chairman Linda Capps

How proud you can be of the new legislative members! They are highly capable to meet the monumental tasks before them as they take their positions in the first Citizen Potawatomi Nation Legislature. Fortunately, you will have an opportunity to meet each of the legislators at our upcoming Family Reunion Festival. What an exciting time for our Nation!

As we review the changes for this year's festival, a significant one to mention is the art competition. Most of you are aware that we did not hold the regional meetings dur-

ing 2008 because of the legislative elections, which means we had no regional art contest winners. Thus, we have scheduled an adult art competition event for tribal members from throughout the United States.

The adult art competition, for members 16 and older, will be held in conjunction with the council meeting that begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Long Room of the Cultural Heritage Center on Saturday, June 28. Tables will be set up against the walls

*See VICE CHAIRMAN on page 24*



*Vice Chairman, con't. from page 23*

for the art display. Participants should be there with their art work at 2:00 p.m. in order to register and arrange their display. The prizes are \$300, \$200, and \$100 for first through third place.

The children will have their competition on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the large tent in the south parking lot of FireLake Discount Foods. The age categories are 6 and 7; 8 and 9; 10 through 12; and 13 through 15 years old. Judging will begin sharply at 10:00 a.m., so participants should arrive at 9:00 a.m. to register and display their art work. First, second, and third place winners will receive prizes for each age group and all participants will be recognized. The children's entries must be prepared prior to the competition.

There are three new demonstration classes scheduled this year. One is how to make fry bread, one is for making shawl ribbon strips, and another is for making hand-sewn appliques. These demonstrations are listed in the schedule of events. Last year we were unable to have the golf and softball tournaments, but we have high hopes that these events will return, if the Oklahoma weather cooperates.

Another change is the availability of 12



mobilized chairs for disabled adults to rent at the festival grounds. This will be done in four-hour increments and on an as-needed basis. Access to the mobile chairs was discontinued for the past two years because of the loss of a mobilized chair that was wrecked and abandoned near a creek bed a couple of blocks from the festival grounds. The mobile chair company is returning out of the goodness of the owner's heart to provide the much-needed service. Joyce Abel has information regarding the rental process with the mobile chair provider; however, reservations for the chairs cannot be made prior to the festival.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you this summer.

Megwetch,

Linda Capps, Vice Chairman

### Seven CPN members receive degrees

## 86 Graduate from St. Gregory's University

**SHAWNEE, OK** - St. Gregory's University celebrated its 93rd commencement exercise on Saturday, May 10, 2008 inside W.P. Wood Field House, with bachelor's degrees conferred on 86 graduates. An additional 46 received associate's degrees, and 12 received master's degrees. Seven Citizen Potawatomi Nation members were among the degree recipients.

Four CPN members earned bachelor's degrees: **Cindy Bruno** of Shawnee, Oklahoma, **Allie Fleischfresser** of McLoud, Oklahoma, **Charles Scott** of Tecumseh, Oklahoma and **Genieve Taylor** of Maud, Oklahoma. And, three Citizen Potawatomis received Associate Degrees: **Gail Smith, Gaila Hatler, and Karen Southers**, all of Shawnee.

Shirley Cox, legal services developer for the state Department of Human Services, delivered the commencement address, urging SGU graduates to discover their dreams, be passionate about what they do, and do justice in their lives. "I encourage you to reach into the deep recesses of your soul and find that passion, live that passion, and love that passion,"

said Cox, an active state advocate for those on the margins of society. "Inspire others to your passion and call them forth in their aspirations. If you do, I predict, you will emerge as extraordinary leaders in your own right."

Cox compared the graduates' walk across the stage to Lewis Carol's "Through the Looking Glass," the sequel to "Alice in Wonderland." In that story, she said, Alice imagines herself climbing through a looking glass, a mirror, wondering what life would hold for her on the other side.

"Valedictorians Zac Ottis and Melanie Jones also addressed the audience. Ottis, who is from Norman, was the valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Jones, from Wagoner, was the valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

"My advice to you is to put your all into everything that you do," Ottis said. "Find a job that makes you happy and that you enjoy doing. When you aren't working, enjoy life. The past four years, if anything, have taught me how fragile life can be, so make sure that you enjoy every minute of it."

*Historic session, con't. from page 1*



(From left) Reps. Ron Goyer, Eva Marie Carney, Paul Wesselhoft, Chairman John Barrett, Theresa Adame, Roy Slavin, and Robert Whistler take a look at FireLake Grand Casino during their tour of CPN enterprises.

Dist. #5 Rep. Gene Lambert addressed that concern, "It is very important now that the communication between the legislators and their constituents be open and plentiful," Rep. Lambert said. As we progress and participate in the steering of this great Nation, your ideas, thoughts, comments, and concerns are necessary for our future."

Dist. #10 Rep. David Barrett also urged members to become active in their tribal government. "Your involvement in the Nation can definitely help it grow by just the simple things you can tender," Barrett said. "For instance, you can assist by updating the *HowNiKan* address for family members who do not live in your household so they can keep up with what the Nation has to offer and who is running for various offices."

The legislature scheduled its next full session for Monday, June 30, while all 16

members are in Shawnee for the Family Reunion Festival. As was the Saturday, April 26 session, that meeting will be streamed live on the Nation's Web site, so tribal members can watch their legislature conducting the members' business.

Anyone wanting to look in can go to [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org). From the home page, select "Government" then "Legislature." The link to the streaming video/audio will be on that page, along with instructions for logging onto the stream.

Under usual circumstances, the eight legislators will gather in the new legislative chamber in the Administration Building in Shawnee. Their eight counterparts from outside Oklahoma will join legislative sessions using video teleconferencing equipment.

*CPN employees/members Traci Peltier and Brandee Smith, who manage FireLake Designs and FireLake Gifts, respectively, talk with Dist. #3 Rep. Robert Whistler during the reception.*

